

PHYSIOTHERAPY CAREER SNAPSHOT

Study Opportunities

Considering studying Business at JCU? Then check out: [Physiotherapy - JCU Australia](#)

Clarify your study goals

Prepare yourself for the new world of work by exploring the careers that match your skills and interests. [The Good Careers Guide](#)

Graduate Opportunities

Physiotherapy is part of the broad [Allied Health](#) family of professions. It treats acute musculoskeletal, respiratory, neurological and other disorders to help patients improve the quality of their lives. It helps recovery from injury and/or prevention of injury, reduction of pain and stiffness, and increase of mobility through manipulation, joint mobilisation, massage, hydrotherapy, acupuncture, rehab exercise, and many other techniques.

Physiotherapy is different from Exercise Physiology in that the latter uses science-informed exercise interventions to prevent and manage chronic disease or musculoskeletal injury (without manual manipulation). Physiotherapists must have the capacity for independent, objective, and comprehensive assessment and diagnosis as they work with self-referred patients, as part of multidisciplinary teams, or with patients referred from GPs or other health professionals.

Physiotherapy graduates are employed in the following types of settings:

- Public and private hospitals
- Acute and community rehabilitation units
- Home and Community health services
- Rehabilitation centres
- Sports and exercise services
- Private practice/general practices
- Aged care facilities
- Research and evaluation

To better understand the role of a physiotherapist, view this [video](#) prepared by the [Australian Physiotherapy Association](#). If you are wondering if a career as a Physiotherapist is for you, the following video provides some useful insights [Physiotherapist – Is it for me?](#)

JCU Graduates Employment Data

The [James Cook University LinkedIn page](#), you can drill down to alumni with your major. Investigate their LinkedIn profiles to identify their career paths following completion of their studies, including job titles and current and past employers.

The top five Employers of JCU graduates listed on LinkedIn are:

- QLD Health
- James Cook Uni
- North QLD Physio Centre
- Townsville Hospital
- Sports and Spinal group

(Retrieved January 2024)

Explore more about our Labour markets.

[Jobs and Skills Australia -- Home](#)

Registration and Professional Bodies

All Physiotherapists working in Australia are required to be registered with the [Physiotherapy Board of Australia](#) (via [Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency](#) AHPRA) to practice, and the JCU Physiotherapy course is accredited with AHPRA and you will be eligible and required to apply for registration upon or before your graduation. Registration with AHPRA, apart from being a legal requirement for practice, reassures prospective clients that you meet the minimum professional standards and are covered by professional indemnity insurance.

The website is open to the public and has a facility to check all current and de-listed/prohibited health practitioners.

Professional Associations and peak bodies represent professions and assist with maintaining standards, lobbying and advocacy, offer professional development and networking opportunities (community of practice), help with marketing services, and can be used to identify professionals operating nearby. They can be a great source for insights, shadowing, mentoring, or part-time and project work opportunities.

Join the [Australian Physiotherapy Association](#); undergraduate students can join for free.

The [Australian Physiotherapy Council](#) ensures the best professional development and educational outcomes for the physiotherapy community in Australia, including accrediting tertiary education courses on behalf of AHPRA, providing accredited professional development programs, disseminating relevant industry news, and assessing foreign qualifications.

Volunteering

Volunteering can give you more exposure to areas of professional interest such as working with children, refugees, seniors, people with a disability, defence personnel, and educational settings, as well as offering you a taste of what it is like to work for a healthcare service such as a large hospital.

It's also an opportunity to demonstrate your initiative and develop valuable transferable skills such as communication, collaboration, problem-solving, resilience etc., demonstrate your values, empathy and active listening, give back to the community, grow your professional and community networks, while demonstrating a commitment to serving future employers and clients.

Hospital systems

- Townsville Hospital 's volunteering arm called [Brighter Lives](#)
- [Mater Health Services](#)

Community

- [Choice Passion Life](#)
- [Australian Red Cross](#)
- [St John Ambulance](#)
- [Volunteering North Queensland](#)
- [Townsville Community Directory](#)

Overseas volunteering

A wide range of projects can be found by researching “allied health volunteering overseas”. Most of these projects will be coordinated via companies that will organise your experience for a fee and before becoming involved it’s important to be aware of the ethical considerations surrounding your experience.

To choose wisely, consider:

- Choosing a cause, you are passionate about and then research the opportunities thoroughly.
- Lend your strengths by selecting projects where you can add real value.
- Choose organisations that partner with local employers.
- Choose projects that offer sustainable development.

More info can be found in [this post](#) by World Vision.

Employability

Your course provides a safe environment to develop your **clinical knowledge and skills** specific to being a Physiotherapist.

It also teaches you the **transferrable skills** required to be effective, such as building rapport, developing good working relationships with patients and their families, giving effective instructions, coaching and motivating, working in multidisciplinary teams; accurate report writing and record keeping, compliant with rules and regulations; ability to handle sensitive or confidential matters appropriately; time management; and developing good working relationships with patients’ families, amongst other things.

A combination of technical and transferrable skills demonstrated through **extra-curricular experiences** and workplace-related experiences within your course make you more employable in the eyes of employers. Make sure to pencil in relevant extra-curricular activities into your calendar every semester.

Track your Experience

As part of your *reflective practice* as a Physiotherapist, you’ll need to track and reflect on your professional development for registration purposes. Maintaining clear records of your professional learning experiences as a student will also support the development of high-quality job applications. Health services often promote their guiding values on company websites, and these offer a useful guide for categorizing your experiences and demonstrating your suitability to their roles through organizational fit. For example, [QLD Health Hospitals](#) include Collaboration, Accountability, Respect, and Excellence, or C.A.R.E through patients’ eyes.

Innovation and Enterprise

Health care is the fastest growing industry in Australia and innovation, (identifying what could be done better and then producing a plan as to how to make it happen), can improve service delivery as well as develop new technologies to assist in better diagnosis and treatment for patients. To read more about future trends in healthcare, see [The Medical Futurist](#) and [Careers with Health](#) online magazine.

An enterprising mindset is not limited to setting up and managing your own freelance Physiotherapy practice. More importantly, it means seeing problems and difficulties as a challenge and an opportunity to generate and test ideas aimed at addressing the problem. This often leads to process improvements at work and the development of new ways of service delivery. Employers are usually highly impressed with evidence of enterprising qualities.

JCU offers a range of free online courses on innovation/enterprising thinking, for example, [LinkedIn Learning: Guy Kawasaki on Entrepreneurship](#); [Small Business Secrets](#); [Entrepreneurship](#)

Job Opportunities

A range of websites list job opportunities for Physiotherapists:

- [Jobs4physios](#)
- [Queensland Health](#)
- [Queensland Govt Grad Portal](#)
- [Hays Healthcare](#)
- [Medijobs](#)
- [Medical Jobs Australia](#)

- [Medacs Health Care](#)
- [Health Care People](#)
- [Your World Healthcare](#)
- [Seek](#)
- [Glassdoor](#)
- [Workplace Rehabilitation Jobs Board](#)

For part-time, course relevant and graduate job listings go to JCU’s online job board [CareerHub](#).

Job opportunities are often posted on employer websites like [Kinnect](#), [Allied Connect](#), [North and West Regional Health](#), along with their LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter feeds.

Get Connected

Use your Networks

Keeping in touch with placement supervisors and staff will ensure you’re informed of job openings.

Use LinkedIn

Investigate [JCU Alumni LinkedIn](#) profiles to identify career pathways and current and past employers of JCU Physiotherapy graduates and connect or follow them.

Follow employers of choice and industry bodies to ensure you don’t miss their updates and job listings, e.g. Queensland Health, Queensland Department of Education and Training, AHPRA, Australian Physiotherapy Association etc.

JCU Careers Resources

As a student, consider accessing JCU Careers resources and be job ready by developing your Employability skills.

[Careers and Employability - JCU Australia](#)

Build your employability skills and fine tune your Application Skills

- Resumes
- Application Documents
- Interviews
- LinkedIn

For further ideas access [Career Ready Plan](#)

