

ANIMAL SCIENTIST – CAREER SNAPSHOT

| Fast Facts | |
|---|--|
|  | \$2,218 Weekly Pay ? |
|  | Strong Future Growth ? |
|  | Lower unemployment Unemployment ? |
| Agricultural Scientists | |
|  | 2,700 workers Employment Size ? |
|  | Very high skill Skill level rating ? |
|  | 87% Full-Time Full-Time Share ? |
|  | 45 hours Average full-time ? |
|  | 40 years Average age ? |
|  | 28% female Gender Share |

Source: [Australian Government Job Outlook: Agricultural Scientist 2019](#)

NB. These statistics include non-animal agricultural sciences



-  **BOOST YOUR PROSPECTS**
-  Explore your options and career goals
-  Build your networks
-  Gain experience
-  Fine tune your job search skills
-  Show initiative and stand out

For further ideas access the [JCU Career Action Plan](#)

- Agricultural Scientist, Agronomist
- Agricultural Consultant
- Wildlife or Zookeeper in Australia or overseas
- Biosecurity Officer, Policy Officer with Agriculture and Water Resources Dept.
- Animal Health Officer with DEDJTR Victoria
- Technical Officer, Animal Biosecurity with Department of Agriculture
- Primary Products Inspectors
- Livestock Managers, Producers
- Policy Analyst – Animal Industries
- Research scientist – CSIRO
- Scientific writer (Animal Health)
- Station Manager
- Farm Manager
- Sales Consultants, Managers
- Animal Nutritionist
- Animal Science Lecturer/Educator

Over 50 JCU alumni have 'Animal Sciences' within their LinkedIn profile. Investigate JCU Alumni LinkedIn profiles to identify career pathways. Source: [James Cook University Alumni LinkedIn](#) Retrieved in October 2019.

Animal Science Careers

Whether you are advancing your current qualification or already working in the field, graduate study can improve your career progression and earning potential. With the specialist knowledge gained, there is a wide range of fields to choose from categorized as:

Industries. Farm Management and associated industries which require qualifications in:

- ▶ Animal nutrition. To ensure animal diets are nutritious and result in profitable and sustainable businesses as an employee or consultant.
- ▶ Animal production. To produce animal products that are safe, healthy and marketable.
- ▶ Animal welfare. To ensure the health and welfare of animals in production systems are maintained to a high standard and meet legal requirements.
- ▶ Supply Chain Management
- ▶ Exports, International Trades & Markets

Government, Public Administration & Safety.

- ▶ To develop advice and policy for food sustainability
- ▶ To develop advice and policy for International aid/development

Biosecurity. To keep crops free of pests, and the environment free of diseases and invasive species by monitoring imports or developing advice and policy.

Research & Education.

- ▶ veterinary and agricultural research
- ▶ veterinary diagnostic laboratories
- ▶ biomedical research (nationally & internationally)

While the JCU course puts emphasis on rural and tropical practice that is sought after in North Queensland, it also prepares for careers in diverse settings. The qualification can take you to a variety of jobs and countries. Examples include:

- Project Manager, Meat and Livestock Australia
- Project Officer, Animal Husbandry, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Gain Skills & Experience While You Study

In developing your professional experience, it is recommended that you identify volunteering and other experiences to develop professional networks and transferable skills which will make you effective in your profession.

Relevant transferable skills include:

- ▶ building good working relationships with stakeholders
- ▶ teamwork
- ▶ tailored communication to explaining animal science problems and procedures in plain language
- ▶ providing easy-to-follow instructions
- ▶ animal welfare
- ▶ OH&S
- ▶ auditing and quality assurance
- ▶ customer service
- ▶ commercial awareness etc.

Apart from developing skills and stories for your future job applications, diverse experiences will allow you to deepen your academic learning, test your ideas, values, likes, dislikes in real life and thus develop your professional identity and find your unique career niche. Examples of **volunteering** and **paid experiences** may include:

- ▶ Volunteer [WVVOOF](#)ing at an organic farm with animals
- ▶ Animal Welfare Compliance Officer
Animal Management/Control Officer (may require a Cert. III)
- ▶ RSPCA Inspector (may require a Cert. IV in Govt. Investigation)

When choosing the workplace for your experience please conduct your due diligence ensuring your physical and epidemiological safety, employer's insurance (if not - check [University's insurance policy](#)), workplace policies including anti-bullying and sexual harassment protections. Be familiar with your worker's rights as discussed on [FairWork Australia's website](#).

Entrepreneurship. The animal science and animal production profession often requires management and enterprising skills. In addition to the subjects in your course, JCU also offers a range of free online courses that give you the theoretical background and confidence to experiment with entrepreneurship. Eg.

- ▶ [Developing an Enterprising Mindset](#)
- ▶ [LinkedIn Learning](#) (formerly Lynda.com). JCU subscribes to LinkedIn Learning. Log in through the Library website to access courses for free. Consider topics: Guy Kawasaki on Entrepreneurship, Small Business Secrets, Entrepreneurship Foundations, Design Thinking: Venture Design, Become an Entrepreneur Inside a Company etc.

Professional Associations

Membership in a professional organisation is a clear signal to employers about your commitment to the profession and professional development as well as a great way to expand your professional network. Eg.

- [Agforce Queensland](#)
- [Australian Pork Limited](#)
- [Australian Lot Feeders' Association](#)
- [Cattle Council of Australia](#)
- [Wildlife Health Australia](#)
- [Zoo and Aquarium Association](#)

Graduate Programs

There are a limited number of **graduate programs** with government departments. Successful applicants are offered on the job training and mentoring within the organisation. Graduate programs are competitive so it is important to understand what is expected and work towards ensuring you have the skills, knowledge and experience they look for. Examples include:

- [QLD Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Greater Graduate Program](#)

Candidates are generally recruited throughout their final year of study for commencement in the following year.

To accelerate your learning on your first job you may also consider joining the AVA's [Graduate Mentoring Program](#) which usually recruits from mid-August till end of September (dates may change).

Graduate Job Search

Graduates find employment with local, state, and federal government departments and non-government agencies including research institutions, universities, environmental consultancies, conservation organisations, quarantine and biosecurity.

Employers include:

- ▶ Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
- ▶ Queensland Government Department of Environment & Science
 - ▶ Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy
 - ▶ Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- ▶ CSIRO
- ▶ Natural Resource Management Boards
- ▶ Natural Resource Assessment Consultants

Useful Links

- [Animal Health Australia](#)
- [Animal Welfare League](#)
- [Australia & NZ Lab Animal Association](#)
- [Australian Animal Health System](#)
- [Biosecurity Queensland](#)
- [Department of Agriculture – Animal Welfare](#)
- [QLD Farmers Federation](#)
- [Wildlife Health Australia](#)
- [WVVOOF Australia](#)
- [World Organisation for Animal Health](#)

*JCU Careers and Employability does not have links nor does endorse any of the organisations listed in this leaflet.