

# ANTHROPOLOGY CAREER SNAPSHOT



## BOOST YOUR PROSPECTS



Explore your options and set career goals



Build your networks



Gain experience



Fine tune your job search skills



Show initiative and stand out

For further ideas access

[JCU Job Ready: Steps to Employment Success](#)

## Anthropology

When we think of Anthropologists, we might consider leather hat wearing, whip toting adventurers but in actual fact Anthropologists exist in many different roles across a number of diverse organisations.

In essence, anthropology is the study of cultural similarities and differences in a globalised world. It is uniquely placed to interpret a diverse range of contemporary social phenomena – from migration to religious fundamentalism, online communities and new social movements, contemporary indigenous cultural expression and identity politics, consumption and commodification, and many evolving forms of social relationships.

Source: [ANU school of Archaeology & Anthropology](#) (Retrieved September 2020)

This means that anthropology career pathways are varied. Depending on the field of practice chosen, Anthropologists use their skills and experience in:

- Research and education,
- Analysing consumer data and trends via user experience research (UX) / customer experience (CX) interactions and design process,
- Ethnographic reflection
- IT and design thinking (human-centred and society-based)
- Community planning

## All Social Professionals



\$1,942  
Weekly Pay



Very strong  
Future Growth



Unavailable  
Unemployment



17,300 workers  
Employment Size



Very high skill  
Skill level rating



39% Full-Time  
Full-Time Share



43 hours  
Average full-time



46 years  
Average age



64% female  
Gender Share

Retrieved from [Job Outlook](#), September 2020

- Policy development, governance and politics
- Native title and Indigenous land claims.

## Career Paths

The JCU LinkedIn page provides information on positions held by JCU Anthropology graduates and their current and past employers.

Over 600 JCU alumni have listed 'Anthropology' within their [LinkedIn Profile](#). The top fields of employment listed on the LinkedIn Profiles are:

- Education
- Research
- Business Development
- Community and Social Sciences
- Operations
- Consulting

The top 5 employers of JCU Anthropology alumni listed on LinkedIn are:

- James Cook University
- The University of Queensland
- LaTrobe University
- Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women
- University of Sydney

Retrieved [JCU LinkedIn](#), September 2020

## Job opportunities

You may consider identifying job opportunities for graduate anthropologists a tricky task.

However many interesting job opportunities exist, given the breadth of job genres available to anthropologists, and the future growth within the areas of design anthropology (UX/CX analysis/design thinking – has real-world application); wellbeing anthropology; forensic anthropology; digital anthropology (techno-anthropology, digital ethnography, cyber-anthropology, virtual-anthropology); and quantitative research associated with online consumer interaction.

Jobs may include:

- Human-Centred Design Lead: analysing how to improve the lives of customers and advisors and strategy implementation
- UX Designer / CX Design Researcher: applying qualitative and quantitative design research methods to understand consumer needs and optimise customer experience
- Data Scientist
- Anthropologist – Cultural Heritage: International Development Work, Indigenous land claims and native title, conducting genealogical research, compiling ethnographic and ethno-historical information
- Quantitative Researcher
- Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Coordinator

Jobs retrieved from [Seek](#), November 2019. Some positions may require further qualifications and training.

Online job boards, graduate recruitment directories, employer websites and social media platforms all provide information on job opportunities for anthropology graduates.

### Online job boards

- [Seek](#)
- [CareerOne](#)
- [JCU CareerHub](#)

### Employer Websites

- [Australian Job Search](#)
- [Queensland Government Jobs](#)



## Professional Associations

Students are encouraged to investigate Professional Associations relevant to the discipline of Anthropology and to consider student membership.

Membership in a professional organisation is a clear signal to employers about commitment to your area of interest and involvement with your profession.

The benefits of membership include access to industry news, job vacancies, networking opportunities, conferences and other professional development opportunities (domestic and international).

The following Professional Associations are worth investigating:

- [Australian Anthropological Society](#)
- [World Council of Anthropological Associations](#)
- [Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies](#)

## Placements & Internships

Gaining career relevant experience whilst studying can improve students' job prospects and confidence. Students are able to apply and develop their knowledge and skills, provide evidence of experience, grow their professional networks and gain greater awareness of workplace policies and procedures.

An industry [placement](#) is an option in the BA final year capstone subject -- [BA3000 Arts Edge](#). It is a strongly recommended option to pursue.

To gain a competitive edge, BA students may seek to undertake additional paid or unpaid **internships** or work experience during their studies.

Internships are competitive and applicants need to demonstrate high levels of initiative and competence.

Internship opportunities are advertised on employer websites and social media sites; online job boards and Graduate Directories.

Check:

- [GradConnection](#)
- [GradAustralia](#)
- [Australian Government](#)
- [Queensland Government](#)
- [Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development](#)

## Volunteer Work

**Volunteering** is a great way to form professional networks, develop work skills and stand out from the crowd. Many employers value evidence of volunteer work.

Volunteering enables students to experience different work environments plus demonstrate their values and the causes they care about. Students are recommended to consider:

- Volunteering for opportunities presented through their degree
- Becoming a [JCU Student Mentor](#)
- Becoming involved in community organisations, particularly in areas related to Anthropology.

Check the following organisations for opportunities:

- [Cairns Museum](#)
- [Museum of Tropical Queensland](#)
- [Townsville Museum and Historical Society](#)
- [Perc Tucker Gallery](#)
- [Townsville Aboriginal and Island Health Services TAIHS](#)
- [Cairns Art Gallery](#)
- [Townsville Community Directory](#)
- [Amnesty International](#)
- [Cairns City Council Community Directory](#)

## Further Study Options

### Honours

An Honours year is available to high-achieving BA Anthropology major students. It consists of extra study and the development of a personal research project and thesis.

An Honours degree enables you to explore a topic in greater depth and demonstrates to employers, academic achievement and advanced research and writing skills. It is usually essential for entry into Higher Degrees by Research.

Visit the [Bachelor of Arts handbook](#) for eligibility information.

### Postgraduate Coursework

The Bachelor of Arts lays an excellent foundation for many professions which can be accessed via postgraduate coursework study

Visit [JCU Postgraduate courses](#) for availability and further course details.

## New - Employability Edge

Give yourself the edge with JCU's [Employability Edge](#) program.

## Postgraduate Research

Graduates interested in a career in **research and/or academia** generally undertake an Honours year in the field of study in which the graduate has majored.

This is typically followed by further graduate research study, either Masters or PhD. Higher Degrees by Research comprise of a program of supervised original research in a chosen discipline.

Completing a JCU Higher Degree by Research will give you an internationally recognised research qualification and advanced transferable skills enabling you to contribute to original knowledge in your field of research.

Visit [www.jcu.me/find-an-advisor](http://www.jcu.me/find-an-advisor) for information on research interests of JCU staff and Higher Degree by Research advisors.

## Graduate Programs

While the majority of graduates will find employment with small or medium size employers (SMEs), a number of BA graduates will gain entry into **Graduate Programs** offered by large organisations and government departments.

Graduate programs are structured professional development positions offered to recent graduates. Successful applicants are provided on the job training, mentoring and professional development within the organization.

Many larger organisations will run several different graduate programs in different parts of their business. It's worth keeping an open mind; the core business of an organisation may not appear to have relevance to anthropology however UX or CX research may make up a component of an organisation's portfolio, for example, or organisations may require research/analysis into people, community, policy, native title, etc.

**NOTE:** Organisations generally recruit students through their final year of study for commencement in the following year. Applications often open as early as March, so keep your eye on graduate program portals from the beginning of your final year to ensure you don't miss out.

Graduate programs are advertised through employers' own websites and social media, the Graduate Recruitment Directories [GradAustralia](#) and [GradConnection](#) and the [Australian](#) and [State](#) government online graduate portals.