

ANTHROPOLOGY CAREER SNAPSHOT

Study Opportunities

Considering studying Anthropology at JCU? Then check out [Anthropology - 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

Anthropology is the study of humans, our relationships with one another and with other species. It is an interdisciplinary field that combines a focus on culture and society with elements of history, politics, economics, and the natural sciences to better understand human experiences.

Current issues such as environmental governance and sustainability in conditions of climate change; global inequalities in wealth and power; cultural diversity, ethnicity and nationalism; war and peace and the role of religion in the state and daily life also form a key focus for anthropologists. They have strong interdisciplinary links to fields such as archaeology, human geography, indigenous studies, politics and international relations, global development, sociology and linguistics.

Interpretive, analytical and creative skills are a must. Anthropology involves engagement with historical documents, recordings of personal experiences, interpreting statistical data and everything in between. It considers both overarching patterns, and the stories one individual's recount can tell us. Those with an anthropology background value diversity and communication, as they will likely engage with a wide variety of individuals. Anthropologists are well versed in the historical origins of power inequalities and how these inequalities infuse, and are normalised by, contemporary social, cultural, economic and political institutions.

Anthropology plays a key role in the decisions of governments, large corporations and multilateral

organisations like the UN and the World Health Organisation. Anthropological knowledge is increasingly in demand. As societies attempt to move forward and create a better world, it is the observations of anthropologists that play a key role in the creation and implementation of policies and projects concerning economic and social development.

Anthropology can be studied alongside another related field, through a double major within the JCU Bachelor of Arts. See the full list of JCU BA Majors and elective. *Source: [Anthropology - JCU Australia](#) (Retrieved Jan 2024)*

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
- Digital anthropology (techno-anthropology, digital ethnography, cyber-anthropology, virtual-anthropology)
- Quantitative research associated with online consumer interaction
- Wellbeing anthropology
- Forensic anthropology
- IT and design thinking (human-centred and society-based)
- Community planning
- Policy development, governance and politics
- Native title and Indigenous land claims

Job titles may include:

- Anthropologist
- Anthropology Research Officer
- Heritage Consultant
- Cultural Heritage Advisor
- Cultural Heritage Officer
- Heritage Policy Officer
- Native Titles Agreement Officer
- Human-Centred Design Lead
- Research Officer
- Quantitative Researcher
- Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Coordinator

Jobs retrieved from [Seek December 2022](#). Some positions may require additional qualifications, training, and experience.

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.

Top fields of employment are:

- Research
- Education
- Operations
- Community and Social Services
- Consulting

Employers of alumni include:

- James Cook University
- Flinders University
- Charles Darwin University
- Deakin University
- Trace Enterprises

Retrieved [JCU LinkedIn](#) January 2024

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 the foundation for many professions which can be accessed via postgraduate coursework study.

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

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.

Visit [JCU Research Profiles](#) for information on research interests of JCU staff and Higher Degree by Research advisors.

Career Experience

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. A growing number of internships and other workplace experiences are now **offered virtually**.

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

Internships, vacation work, cadetships and other work experience opportunities are advertised on employer websites and social media sites, online job boards and Graduate Directories.

To start, check:

- [GradConnection](#)
- [Prosple](#)
- [Queensland Government](#)

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](#)
- [Amnesty International](#)
- [Townsville Community Directory - volunteering](#)
- [Cairns Community Directory - volunteering](#)
- [State Library of Queensland Digital Volunteers](#)

Job Opportunities

Researching job vacancy listings in your area of interest will give you an understanding of **opportunities** for anthropology graduates.

Online job boards

- [Seek](#)
- [LinkedIn Jobs](#)
- [JCU CareerHub](#)
- [Queensland Government Jobs](#)
- [Australian Public Service Jobs](#)

Graduate Programs

Graduates can find employment with small or medium size employers (SMEs), and 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.

Graduate programs are **advertised** through employers' own websites and social media channels (e.g. [Australian, Queensland](#) and other state government graduate portals). Also, through the graduate recruitment sites

- [Prosple](#),
- [GradConnection](#)

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](#)

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](#)

