

Information for Schools and School Staff

JCU Navigate YOU Summit

The James Cook University (JCU) Navigate YOU Summit is a residential program offering current Year 10 students the chance to experience university life during the school holidays. The educative program structure is an entirely immersive residential program that is fully funded by JCU. It provides students with a distinctive experience of tertiary education to inform their career goals, develop confidence and build capacity for tertiary study. The Navigate YOU Summit aims to provide encouragement to students who has the capability to thrive at university, however, may lack the confidence and career clarity to pursue a tertiary pathway. JCU seeks to break down the barrier students face to tertiary education by:

- Empowering students to engage with learning experiences and subjects in a tertiary context.
- Building strong relationships between JCU, industry partners and diverse student groups.
- Equipping students with the knowledge to select a career path that aligns to their future aspirations.
- Supporting and encouraging students in our region to undertake an ATAR pathway by identifying career identity, develop career confidence, access and capacity to tertiary education.
- Providing students with the tools and support they need to pursue their goals and develop self-efficacy and agency.

Program details

Over five days, students live off campus and travel to JCU campus and take part in academic lectures and experiential learning sessions, personal development and team-building activities. The interactive program provides opportunities to meet JCU students and university staff and encourages students to build connections with their peers.

Dates

Sunday 5th – Thursday 9th July 2026 (Week two of school holidays).

Location

JCU Townsville, Bebegu Yumba campus, Douglas & Mercure Hotel Townsville

Your stay in Townsville

Accommodation is at the Mercure Hotel, Townsville with catering provided for all participants. Residential participants will be supervised by JCU staff on site.

Costs - Free

JCU will coordinate and provide all travel, accommodation and meals for students.

Which students is this program intended to support?

This opportunity is intended to support students who have the interest and social maturity to engage with content and related activities of a university immersion experience. Students who may benefit from the exposure of whole university environments, structures and services that supports their career journey. Your school can identify students who may wish to participate in the residential program and support a student's referral process as part of their application. Students are required to submit an online or hard copy application with supporting documentation.

Information for Schools and School Staff

Student Application

Students are required to submit their completed application by COB Friday 29 May 2026. Late or incomplete applications may not be accepted, as places are limited. Online and hard copy application forms can be found here.

Eligibility and selection criteria

To be accepted into this program, the student must:

- be a current Year 10 student studying at a school from the Whitsunday Region to Far North Queensland;
- have received sound achievement levels (A and/or B results) in their previous year of study (Year 9 Report);
- have received sound behaviour (A and/or B results) in their previous year of study (Year 9 Report);
- obtain permission from a parent or legal guardian; and
- be available to attend for the full duration of the camp program.

Note: A mobile phone efficacy use policy will be implemented for the duration of the program.

The selection panel will choose applicants to participate with selection assessed on:

- Academic achievement and potential;
- Behaviour and effort evident through their school report; and
- Applicants articulated motivation and desire to participate.

Note: The Outreach team may contact the school to recommend appropriate applicants from a selected pool.

Applicants are required to submit an online or hard copy application form with supporting documents including:

- copy of their end of year school report for 2025;
- Signed Parent/Guardian consent authority;
- A student profile photo (headshot) to be used to develop Student ID cards; and
- a teacher, head of department or principal referee (students must submit the staff member's full name and direct email address. JCU may use these details to send an online recommendation request to the referee).

Transport

JCU will coordinate and support all travel to and from JCU Campus directly with the student and their parents or guardians. This may include road and air transportation, depending on the student's proximity to the JCU Townsville campus. Airport transfers will be coordinated and supported by JCU.

Accommodation & Meals

All accommodation and meals will be coordinated and supported by JCU. Participants will be accommodated at the Mercure Hotel Townsville, with Special dietary requirements & food allergies will be catered for.



Participants will receive

- Shared room in resort style accommodation
- Electronic swob for building access
- WiFi access (when scheduled)
- Bed linen and bath towels are supplied
- Breakfast, Lunch, Afternoon tea and Dinner

Safety

- JCU Staff will be accommodated at the same hotel
- There is hotel security 24/7
- JCU support staff is available 24 hours

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Camp Program

Discipline Areas

An academic program consisting of mandatory lectures/tutorials, hands on activities, which may include group projects will be delivered by JCU academic staff. This will include engaging with select Student Ambassadors in career related study areas, JCU academic staff and may also include industry professionals.

Discipline area options. Students select their first and second preference discipline areas from the below.

Study areas for each discipline is outlined in the Information Guide for Students and Parents/Guardians and Navigate YOU Summit Application form. All materials and equipment will be supplied by JCU.

- Business, Law & Community
- Sciences, Engineering & IT
- Health

Social & Professional Program

A personal development and enrichment program will be delivered during the afternoon and evening sessions. This includes engaging with select Student Ambassadors, JCU staff and may also involve external contractors delivering a range of activities. Travel off the JCU campus maybe included in this program and will be coordinated by JCU.

What is the school's responsibility?

JCU will coordinate all aspects of the program including the application process and maintain contact with students and their parents or guardians. This includes all travel arrangements, all accommodation and dietary requirements, all risk assessments, code of conduct and the pastoral care of selected participants.

Schools are asked to assist with promoting this opportunity to students who are interested in pursuing a university residential experience and provide a recommendation in support of a student's application. Schools are not required to send staff or provide any other administrative support.

Contact Us

The JCU Outreach team is available to answer any questions you may have, contact the JCU Outreach team by email outreach@jcu.edu.au or by phone 0439 936 982.