

GRADUATE RESUMES

Commerce – Accounting

Your success in gaining an interview for a graduate position or progressing further in the application process, hinges upon the quality of the written application you provide to an employer.

This is your opportunity to demonstrate that you possess the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities for the position.

Tailor your resume

Your resume is a marketing tool. It is **essential** that you **tailor your resume for every job application** to increase the fit between you, the role and the organisation.

Thoroughly research the organisation and the position to determine what the employer is looking for.

You **must** follow the application instructions to ensure your application progresses to the next stage.

Reflect on your past study and work experiences, extracting points, which could help to sell yourself to an employer.

Emphasise your strengths as they relate to each particular role and match your skills and abilities to the job you are applying for.

Headings

There are no set headings for a resume, although the following headings are commonly included. Decide what headings best promote you to a prospective employer's expectations.

Under each heading list experiences in reverse chronological order, most recent first.

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Name, address, phone and email.
- LinkedIn Profile – ensure your profile is up to date. Consider personalising your URL (search **Customise your URL** on LinkedIn)
- Photo, date of birth, marital/parental status and health are **not required**.

CAREER STATEMENT or PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY (Optional, 2-3 lines)

This section should only be added to your resume if it has been written to suit the position and organisation you are applying to. This is your opportunity to market your key selling points plus state why you want the job.

EDUCATION

Tertiary, high school (only list high school if you are a recent school leaver and have relevant achievements to list) and other relevant training qualifications. Begin with your **Bachelor of Commerce**.

MEMBERSHIPS

Include memberships of professional bodies.

WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING (WIL)

Undertaking a WIL subject is a great way to gain practical experience in your field. Make the most of this when preparing your resume. Consider how you can describe your responsibilities, achievements, range of duties and situations (small business, national organisation, government department etc.) What skills did you learn? What projects did you contribute to?

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Begin with the most recent. Use bullet points to list your responsibilities and achievements for each role - tailor these to the position. Do not leave gaps in your resume. If you travelled or cared for a family member for 6 months list this for transparency.

REFEREES

Supervisor/Manager/Academic. (Usually 2 to 3 people)
Avoid personal referees.

Optional Headings

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Professional Development | Key Skills |
| Extra-Curricular Activities | Publications |
| Special Awards | Volunteering |
| Community Involvement | Research Projects |

Language

Use professional vocabulary, e.g. 'negotiated', rather than 'worked out'. Use verbs to describe your skills and employment achievements. See the ['Action Words for your application' Information Sheet](#) for ideas.

Top Tips

- Thoroughly research the organisation's application procedure to determine what is required.
- Tailor your resume to the job description/organisation requirements of the position.
- Emphasise **achievements** to demonstrate your capacity.
- Be clear, concise and truthful.
- Check page requirements if identified by the employer.
- Use a simple, professional layout with consistent formatting.
- Use bullet points to list your relevant experience and employment history and associated responsibilities and achievements.
- Check and check again for spelling and grammatical errors.
- Check if **applicant tracking system software** is being used to short list resumes and modify layout if so. Online screening software can't read photos, clipart, tables, fancy fonts, borders.

See our information sheet on Applicant Tracking Software – [Can a robot read your resume?](#) to ensure your resume will get through any online screening tools.

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LinkedIn: [sarahsmithston](https://www.linkedin.com/in/sarahsmithston)

Tip – Use a professional email address such as your JCU email and personalize / embed your LinkedIn URL.

CAREER STATEMENT / PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY / PROFILE (optional)

I am a motivated final year student with experience in XXXXX. Together with 2 years customer service experience, I am ready to use my skills and knowledge in a professional accounting role.

Tip – If you decide to add a Career Statement, Professional Summary or Profile, keep it brief. Indicate what personal or professional attributes you can bring to the position and ensure it matches the role you are applying for.

EDUCATION

2019 – present

Bachelor of Commerce

James Cook University, Townsville, QLD

Major: Accounting

Expected completion date: November 2021

Relevant Achievements

- GPA: 5.7 (scale 1-7, 7 being highest)
- Business faculty student representative on Committee for Curriculum (3rd year)
- Member of group of three who received the highest grade for research project on new XXXXXXXX initiatives for small business

Tip - Include other degrees or qualifications completed prior to the Bachelor of Commerce in this section.

Tip - Only include relevant information. Think about highlights from your course, awards, prizes, projects that make you stand out.

2018

Certificate III in Business Administration

Barrier Reef TAFE, Townsville, QLD

2017

Year 12 Senior Certificate

Townsville High School, QLD

Achievements

- High achievements in English and Maths
- Active member of the Student Representative Council
- School Representative in Maths Competition

Tip - Include if recent school leaver, list major school awards, prizes, leadership position, extra-curricular activities.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2021

Australian Institute of Management Conference, Townsville

Student participant and committee volunteer

2020

Critical Thinking for Better Judgement and Decision Making

LinkedIn Learning, online course

2019

Speechcraft Course

Toastmasters, Townsville

Tip – List relevant conferences, courses, workshops attended. List course provider, title and date attended.

KEY SKILLS

Communication

Confident and clear communicator, adaptable to various audiences, strengthened through front line customer service roles and professional placements.

Teamwork

Strong ability to work as part of a team, evidenced by high academic achievements in group work assignments at university and through paid and volunteer positions.

IT Skills

Microsoft Office – advanced Excel skills, Quickbooks, NetSuite, SAP

Tips

- The skills listed above are examples only - research is **crucial** – you need to identify the skills the employer/position requires and address these
- If specialist IT skills are required – identify these and demonstrate your level of expertise.
- All JCU students can improve their skills with free access to **LinkedIn Learning** – check it out on the JCU Library website

COURSE PLACEMENT/RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- 2021 **Findex, Townsville, June – July (6 weeks)**
(Work Integrated Learning Placement)
- Worked in a project group developing a business plan for a local sporting event
 - Applied well developed analytical skills to the project – skills evidenced by strong grades in academic research assessments
 - Presented the proposal to the Manager and Committee on behalf of the group
- 2020 - 2021 **Grant Thornton Cairns, Dec – January (6 weeks)**
- Undertook formal Vacation Program with rotations in the Audit and Recovery teams
 - Assisted in an external audit (Motor Vehicles)
 - Attended Creditors Meetings with the Recovery Team for a business in Liquidation

MEMBERSHIPS

- 2019 - present Student Member of Chartered Accountants ANZ
- 2019 - present Member of The JCU Business Students Society

Tip – Allow more space for recent, relevant information and provide less detail as your information becomes less recent/relevant.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- Feb - Nov 2020 **Student Mentor, James Cook University**
- Supported first year Business students settle in and succeed in their transition into university
 - Trained in communication, mentoring and advocacy

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 2020 - present **Client Services Officer, JCU Student Centre, Townsville Campus (Casual)**
- Provided excellent customer service (face to face and telephone) to prospective, new and returning JCU students at the start of each semester
 - Met performance targets in terms of waiting time (telephone queries)
 - Provided information and referrals with regards to subject selection, tutorial sign up and timetable queries
- 2019 - 2020 **Library Assistant, JCU Library, Townsville Campus (Casual)**
- Assisted Library staff with routine tasks
 - Organised shelving of books in a timely manner
 - Assisting students with queries
- 2017 - 2019 **Retail Assistant, Supercheap Pharmacy, Townsville**
- Responded to customer enquiries
 - Participated in product training to ensure correct recommendations
 - Awarded Employee of the Month for best Team Player

Tips

- Focus on highlighting achievements, responsibilities and transferable skills developed that are relevant to **the position and the employer** and which indicate your capacity as a future employee
- Don't underestimate the value of **non-degree related** employment. You will have gained valuable skills – the key is to explain how these skills can be transferred to the role you are applying for.
- Commence each description with an **action word** (verb)
- **Don't** just list the duties from your Position Description
- Make a **clear connection** to the job you are applying for
- Identify **complexity** and **achievements** in each statement

Tip – List interests that relate to your work life and give an indication of your personal qualities or abilities e.g. leadership, resilience, teamwork.

INTERESTS

- Member of Townsville Saints Hockey Club
- Coach for Under 12s Townsville Saints Hockey Team
- Keen traveller – backpacked through Europe independently

Tip – Keep your referees informed, they need to know what you are applying for so that they are prepared when an employer contacts them to find out more about you.

REFEREES

Dr XXXXXX
Senior Lecturer
College of Business, Law & Governance
Phone: 07 XXXXXXXXX
Email: XXXX

Ms Jane Taylor
Library Manager
JCU Library, Townsville Campus
Phone 07 XXXXXXXXX
Email XXXX

Need more help? Go to www.jcu.edu.au/careers for more resources

- [Information Sheets](#): Action Verb List, Can a robot read your Resume?
- [Employability Edge](#): Master Written Applications module
- [Big Interview](#): combine training and practice to improve your interview techniques
- Make an appointment with the [Careers and Employability Team](#) to discuss your job search

**DO NOT COPY – PLEASE USE TO
GENERATE YOUR OWN IDEAS**

NOTE: This information is intended to be used as a guide and to provide general information only. It is solely your responsibility to evaluate and check the accuracy of the information provided.