

PSYCHOLOGY – CAREER SNAPSHOT



Source: [Job Outlook, December 2020](#)

JCU's Psychology degrees provide excellent training in understanding human behaviour, analytic thinking and scientific research methods that are relevant to a broad range of careers.

The [Australian Psychological Society](#) describes what psychologists do as follows: "broadly speaking, most psychologists provide assessment and therapy to clients, help facilitate organisational or social change, conduct psychological research, or administer psychological tests to individuals or groups".

Careers

With or without registration, psychology graduates have a variety of career options.

Registered psychologists can work in a range of employment settings. Many of these settings will also have options for graduates who choose not to become registered. The

difference in offerings between registered and non-registered will depend on the employer and the role; some positions will be identified as "psychologist" and therefore needing registration, however in other positions, a range human services degrees can be listed as desirable. Job titles might include: *caseworker, counsellor, support worker, child safety officer, project officer, disability support worker, drug and alcohol worker, intake officer.*

Employment settings include:

- Mental health and wellbeing
- Education and training
- Population health
- Drug and alcohol
- Justice and corrections
- Public policy
- Corporate and commercial
- Marketing and communication
- Emerging technology and design.

Psychologists who complete further post graduate studies can qualify for an *area of practice endorsement* in the following fields:

- Clinical neuropsychology
- Clinical psychology
- Community psychology
- Counselling psychology
- Educational and developmental psychology
- Forensic psychology
- Health psychology
- Organisational psychology
- Sport and exercise psychology

For more info, this section has been adapted from: <https://www.psychology.org.au/careers>

Employability through Volunteering

Gaining experience in psychological interventions can be difficult, however working with different client groups and building your communications skills as a volunteer is very achievable.

Think about areas of psychology that interest you most and seek out volunteer opportunities in that area. For example, if you're interested in working in health, you could volunteer at hospitals or with patient support groups. If you wish to develop your counselling skills you could volunteer as a [Lifeline Crisis Supporter](#), Lifeline provides training. Other volunteer organisations are as follows:

- [Beyond Blue](#)
- [FNQ Volunteers](#)
- [Volunteering North Queensland](#)
- [My Community Directory](#)
- [Seek Volunteer](#)
- [Go Volunteer](#)
- [Townsville Community Directory](#)
- [Cairns Community Directory](#)
- [Townsville Hospital BrighterLives](#)
- [Mater Health Services](#)

Volunteering can give you more exposure to areas of professional interest, such as working with children, refugees, return to work services, defence personnel, educational settings, etc.

It's also an opportunity to give to the community, grow your professional and community networks and demonstrate extra commitment to future employers and clients.

- BOOST YOUR PROSPECTS**
- Explore your options, clarify your career goals
- Build your networks
- Gain course relevant experience
- Fine tune your job application skills
- Show initiative, engage in extra-curricular activities and stand out

For further ideas on planning your extracurricular skill development journey check [JCU Job Ready](#)

Overseas volunteering

Projects can be found by searching "psychology volunteering overseas". Many of these will be via companies that will organise your experience for a fee. Be aware that ethical issues surround some (but not all) so-called voluntourism projects.

To choose wisely, consider:

- What will be the outcome of my volunteering adventure?
- Am I doing it for the right reasons?
- What skills can I offer developing countries to empower their next generation to be self-sufficient?

If not, your participation might be exploitative. More info can be found in [this post](#) by Save the Children.

Track your experience

As a psychologist, you'll need to track and reflect on your professional development for AHPRA registration by using professional association membership to identify development opportunities, so it's a good habit to get into right now and will help you write better job applications. Health services will often list values on their websites. They can be a useful guide for categorising experience to prove your suitability to their roles. For example, Townsville Hospitals' values* are:

- Integrity
- Compassion
- Accountability
- Respect
- Engagement

Professional Associations

Joining a Professional Association as a student member is an ideal way to gain valuable insight into your future profession, demonstrate interest and meet people in your field who can support you in developing your career and exploring career and employment opportunities. Associations hold regular professional development and networking events and students are often welcome to join.

- [Australian Psychological Society](#)

Enterprise and innovation

Health care is the fastest growing industry in Australia and innovation can improve service delivery as well as develop new assistive technologies for patients. To read more about future trends in healthcare, see [The Medical Futurist](#) and [Careers with Health](#) online magazine.

JCU offers a range of free online courses on entrepreneurship, for example: Small Business Secrets; Entrepreneurship Foundations; Become an Entrepreneur inside a Company etc. through [LinkedIn Learning](#) that is available for free to all JCU students (requires a log in through [JCU Library website](#) and creation of a free [LinkedIn](#) profile).

[Student challenges and competitions](#) are a good way to practice your innovative problem solving, and social issues do feature in some, so don't be put off because technology isn't your thing.

Identifying Opportunities

A range of websites list job opportunities for psychology graduates:

- [PsychXchange](#)
- [Queensland Govt Grad Portal](#)
- [THEUnijobs](#)
- [Queensland Health](#)
- [Hays Healthcare](#)
- [Medijobs](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Seek](#)
- [Glassdoor](#)

For part-time, course relevant and graduate job listings go to JCU's online job board [CareerHub](#).

Job opportunities are often posted on employer websites, for example [Headspace](#), [North and West Regional Health](#), [The Black Dog Institute](#), along with their LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter feeds.

Use LinkedIn

LinkedIn is an important job search platform as recruiters and employers can actively seek out individuals as well as using intuitive advertising.

Investigate [JCU Alumni LinkedIn](#) profiles to identify career pathways and current and past employers of JCU psychology graduates.

Follow established psychologists in Townsville or other places. This is a great way to benefit from their posts without being connected. This is a great option if you haven't met in real life, or if you aren't yet confident enough to send a connection request.

Follow employers of choice and industry bodies to ensure you don't miss their updates and job listings, e.g. Queensland Health, Psychology Board, Beyond Blue, etc.

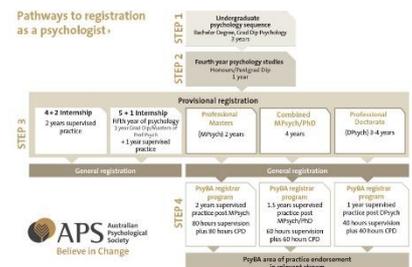
Use your Networks

Keep in touch with supervisors from volunteering or work experience via LinkedIn or directly to ensure you're informed of job openings when they occur, or even before they are advertised.

JCU's Registration pathways

To practice as a Psychologist you must be registered with the [Psychology Board of Australia](#).

The Australian Psychological Society's website offers an explanation of [four pathways to become a registered psychologist](#):



[Australian Psychological Accreditation Council](#) is an independent quality and standards organisation appointed as an external accreditation entity for the psychology profession in Australia under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009.

See the [Psychology Board of Australia](#) website for the latest registration information, and the [JCU College of Healthcare Sciences](#) for options at JCU.