

PSYCHOLOGY

Career Information

Graduate Opportunities

Psychology provides excellent training in analytic thinking and scientific research methods that are relevant to a broad range of careers.

To practice as a Psychologist you must be registered with the Psychology Board of Australia.

Psychologists study human behaviour and the processes associated with how people think and feel, conduct research and provide treatment and counselling in order to reduce distress and behavioural and psychological problems. They promote mental health and positive behaviour with individuals and groups.

Psychologists who complete further post graduate studies may progress to **specialist areas** of psychology including:

Clinical, Clinical Neuropsychology, Community, Counselling, Organisational, Forensic, Educational and Development, Health, Sports and Exercise, Experimental, Environmental, Quantitative, Rehabilitation, Social and Family Psychology.

Psychology Positions

JCU psychology graduates are employed in a diverse range of positions including:

*Psychologist, caseworker, counsellor, support worker, family dispute practitioner, child safety officer, project officer, disability support worker, drug and alcohol worker, school liaison and family support, intake assessment officer, human resources advisor, program officer, project manager.*¹



Psychology Employers

Psychology graduates are employed in a wide range of industries including state and federal government departments, schools, public and private hospitals, academic and applied research settings, law courts, prisons, police forces, defence forces, private practice, consulting firms, rehabilitation services, welfare, community services and business.

Employers of JCU psychology graduates include:

*Relationships Australia, Kids Helpline, Uniting Care Community, Anglicare, Headspace, Centacare, Life Without Barriers, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, Queensland Health as well as private practices.*¹

If you decide **not to gain accreditation as a psychologist** you can use your studies to seek employment in fields such as community services and counselling, business and market research, education and training, administration, human resources and management.

Many graduates branch out into diverse areas of the workforce, not always directly related to their Psychology study area. They are employed in positions where they can use the skills and knowledge gained through their studies such as business and market research, community services, administration and management.²

Further information on careers in Psychology

- Careers in psychology - the [Australian Psychological Society](#)
- [Job Outlook](#)
- [The Good Universities Guide](#)

Registration as a Psychologist

At present a **minimum six-year sequence of education and supervised training** is required to become eligible for registration as a Psychologist with the Psychology Board of Australia.

At **JCU one pathway** students may pursue to gain registration is to:

1. Complete the three-year Bachelor of Psychological Science degree **and**:
2. Complete an accredited extra year of study, either the Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) or the Graduate Diploma of Psychology:
3. Plus complete a further two years of supervised practice in the field, **or** the two-year Master of Psychology (Clinical) with one year of supervised practice.³

There is competition for supervision and entry into the honours program and post graduate courses, students need to closely investigate expectations and academic requirements. For further information on JCU course pathways contact the [JCU College of Healthcare Sciences](#).

For comprehensive information on **all pathway options to registration as a Psychologist** go to the [Psychology Board of Australia](#).

Vacancies Online

Checking online job boards provides you with an understanding of various job titles plus requirements and expectations for the positions.

You can then work towards filling any skills, knowledge or experience gaps that you identify so that you are competitive when entering the graduate labour market.

Australia

- [JCU Careerhub](#)
- [Graduate Opportunities](#)
- [Seek](#)
- [Health and Community Jobs](#)
- [Australian Job Search](#)
- [Australian Public Service recruitment](#)
- [Queensland Government Jobs](#)
- [PsychXchange \(Australian Psychological Society vacancy listings\)](#)
- [Unijobs](#)

Enhancing Your Employment Prospects

Build Your Professional Networks

Building your networks will increase your knowledge of your profession, grow your reputation with potential future employers and help you identify opportunities.

Network with Professionals

Take advantage of every opportunity to meet professionals. You can ask questions about their work in psychology and let them get to know you too, which is helpful when you start applying for jobs. Attend the annual JCU Careers Fair, Student Psychology Association events, JCU Market Day, Industry Panels, Information Sessions, etc.

Tip: Join Your Student Club

- [JCU Student Psychology Association \(Cairns\)](#)
- [Student Psychology Club \(Townsville\)](#)
- Join their facebook page

Join Your Professional Association

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](#)
- [Australian Community Workers Association](#)
- [Australian Counselling Association](#)
- [Queensland Counsellors Association](#)
- [College of Professional Psychology](#)
- [Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia](#)



Network via Social Media

Careful use of Social Networking – LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter will expand your networks and lead to job opportunities. Not only is social media the ideal way to connect with your profession it is also now used by employers to recruit staff and research job applicants.

LinkedIn is fast becoming employers' recruitment hunting ground. In addition most employers will google you when considering you for a position. You need to ensure you maintain a professional online presence – a professional LinkedIn profile is the key way to achieve this.

Gain Career Relevant Experience

Gaining experience before you graduate is essential as employers want to know that you have put the skills and knowledge you have been developing into practice.

Employers are interested in application of your theoretical knowledge and also your general skills eg. interpersonal, communication, team skills.

Gaining experience in psychology can be difficult, however working with different client groups 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 with a patient support group. If you wish to develop your counselling skills you could be a Lifeline phone volunteer. Lifeline provides counselling training.

Psychology related volunteer work will give you practical experience, grow your networks and referees.

- [Lifeline](#)
- [FNQ Volunteers](#)
- [Volunteering North Queensland](#)
- [My Community Directory](#)
- [Townsville City Council Community Directory](#)
- [Cairns City Council Community Directory](#)

Key Job Search strategies

- Be proactive. Identify organisations you are interested in
- Check their websites for opportunities, follow their facebook page and twitter feeds (if available)
- Actively participate on LinkedIn, join relevant groups, connect with professionals, develop an impressive online profile

Show Initiative, Be Involved

Employers want to know you can offer more than your educational qualifications. Be proactive, get involved.

- Become a committee member of your local group – think hobbies, volunteer organizations, School P & C, charities, sporting clubs, service clubs etc.
- Undertake extra courses to build your knowledge – check out the [Mental Health Professional Network](#) seminars
- Become involved in community organisations such as [RSPCA](#), [SES](#) and think about how this experience relates to psychology eg. How pet ownership reduces stress levels, how cyclone damage can have lasting effects on people's sense of security
- Become a **Student Mentor at JCU**
- Become a **JCU Student Ambassador**
- Volunteer at the annual **JCU Careers Fair**
- Volunteer to assist Post Graduate students with their research

Final Word

Graduate success is dependent on your active engagement with your future career throughout all of your degree.

Aim to develop your knowledge, skill, experiences and professional connections so that you can meet employer expectations and be ready to maximize opportunities when they arise.

Visit our website to jcu.edu.au/careers to explore...

Follow us on Facebook and subscribe to our newsletter

- Follow JCU Careers and Employment on Facebook for the latest news.
- Subscribe to the CareerHub Newsletter to be sent a range of job opportunities and news from JCU Careers.

Individual Support

- Our team supports students with their career planning, decision making and job applications. Contact our office to make an appointment.
- During semester visit our **Drop-in desk** on Level 1 in the Library. You can receive feedback on your resume, cover letter, LinkedIn profile or ask us a career related question.
Townsville sessions are held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (2 - 3 pm),
Cairns sessions are held on Tuesday and Wednesday (2 - 3 pm)
- Phone and email support is available to external students or students unable to attend an appointment.

Career Action Plan

- The Career Action Plan is a checklist of actions you can take to increase your chances of graduate employment. We have developed specific plans relating to each stage of your student journey.
- The Career Action Plan is available on our website or call into our office for a copy.

CareerHub

- JCU's online job portal. It lists part-time, casual, vacation, volunteer and graduate opportunities. It also lists career events, news and resources.
- Use your JCU username and password to log in.

Career Development Program

- Develop the skills to increase your employability.
- The Program offers a range of self-help career management modules.

Big Interview

- Learn the best interview techniques.
- Practice just about every question you are likely to get in over 20 industries.
- Video your responses and get feedback from your peers.

Develop an Enterprising Mindset – Skills and Attributes for Career Success

- Job markets are becoming more complex and globalized, so employers now target graduates who are innovative thinkers and leaders. This program contains eight self-paced modules to help you gain these key skills and be competitive in the future job market.

Cairns Campus

Phone: (07) 4232 1150

Location: Level 1, Library

Monday to Friday 9 am – 4 pm

Townsville Campus

Phone: (07) 4781 4711

Location: Level 1, Library

Monday to Friday 9 am – 4.30 pm

Email careers@jcu.edu.au
Website jcu.edu.au/careers



References

1. Education Services Australia Ltd. (2018). *Psychologist*. Retrieved 9 January, 2018, <https://myfuture.edu.au/occupations/details?anzsco=271311A>
2. Graduate Careers Australia. (2015). *JCU 2015 AGS Employment Information*. Unpublished survey results.
3. James Cook University. (2018). *Bachelor of Psychological Science*. Retrieved 9 January, 2018, <https://www.jcu.edu.au/courses-and-study/courses/bachelor-of-psychological-science>