

ARTS CAREER SNAPSHOT



BOOST YOUR EMPLOYMENT 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, access [JCU Job Ready: Steps to Employment Success](#)

Graduate Options

Employment options for JCU Bachelor of Arts (BA) graduates are many and varied. A key strength of BA graduates is their diversity, flexibility and adaptability in the labour market.

A BA equips you with **discipline specific knowledge and skills** to enable you to 'take on roles like anthropologist, archaeologist, journalist, public relations officer, policy advisor, criminologist, community development officer or historian.' ([JCU Bachelor of Arts brochure, 2020, p6](#)).

The BA also equips you with **transferrable workplace skills** in research, critical thinking, analytical problem solving and written and oral communication. These information processing skills can be **applied across various careers and industries** and are highly valued by employers.

A number of employers, including government departments, banks and other large organisations and startup

and innovation precincts recruit for these transferrable skills and then train graduates in industry-specific skills when on the job.

The roles BA graduates are often employed in include: policy areas, human resources, project management, administration and development coordination.

Through further graduate coursework study, BA graduates are also able to enter **professions** such as law, teaching, information management/librarianship, social work, sports management and international development.

Employers

BA graduates are employed in a wide range of industries including business, state and federal government departments, regional councils, non-government organisations (NGOs), education and applied research, consulting and strategy, media and communications, conservation, health care and community services, and arts and culture.

Career Paths

Over 5,000 JCU alumni (graduates) have listed 'Bachelor of Arts' within their **LinkedIn profile**. The top ten fields of employment listed by JCU BA alumni on LinkedIn are:

- Education
- Operations
- Community and Social Services
- Arts and Design
- Media and Communication
- Research
- Sales
- Support
- Administrative
- Finance

The **James Cook University LinkedIn page** provides information on current and past employers and positions held by BA graduates.

Source: [James Cook University LinkedIn](#)

Job Opportunities

Identifying a career direction can be a challenge for BA graduates.

Vacancies listed on online job boards, graduate directories, employer websites and employer social media platforms such as Facebook and LinkedIn, all provide information on the **range of positions and industries available** to BA graduates plus **knowledge, skills and attributes required**.

Many employers do not mention a specific major or degree required, but define the work by a skill set rather than qualification.

Online Job Boards include:

- [Seek](#)
- [LinkedIn Jobs](#)
- [CareerOne](#)
- [JCU Careerhub](#)

Employer Websites include:

- [Australian Job Search](#)
- [Queensland Government Jobs](#)
- [Queensland Government Graduate Portal](#)
- [Australian Public Service Graduate Programs](#)

Graduate Recruitment Directories

- [GradAustralia](#)
- [GradConnection](#)

Further Study Options

Honours

A Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree is available for high-achieving 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 research higher degrees.

Visit the [Bachelor of Arts \(Honours\) handbook](#) for eligibility information.

Postgraduate Coursework

The Bachelor of Arts lays an excellent foundation for many professions which can be accessed via postgraduate coursework study.

BA graduates may choose to enter professions such as law, teaching, social work, arts management, information management / librarianship, strategic planning and consultancy, international development via further graduate 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 they have 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 enabling you to contribute to original knowledge to your field of research.

Visit [JCU Research Portfolio](#) for information on research interests of JCU staff and higher degree by research advisors.

Graduate Programs

While the majority of graduates will find employment with small or medium size employers (SMEs), a number of BA graduates will gain entry into **Graduate Programs** offered by large organisations (e.g. KPMG, PwC, Accenture) and government departments.

Graduate programs are structured professional development positions offered to recent graduates. Successful applicants are provided on the job training and mentoring within the organization.

Government graduate programs train graduates in performing different tasks such as research, writing minutes, briefings, ministerial advice, policy analysis, applying legislation, liaising with other agencies,

supporting project management and attending meetings. (Source: OLT Employability of Bachelor of Arts Graduates Final Report 2013)

Students apply for graduate programs during **their final year of study** for commencement of employment in the following year.

Graduate programs are highly competitive so it is important to understand what is expected so that you can work towards ensuring you have the skills, knowledge and experience required.

Graduate programs are advertised through employers' own websites and LinkedIn and Facebook sites, Graduate Recruitment Directories and online job boards.

Placements & Internships

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 -- 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.

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

Internship opportunities are advertised on employer websites and social media sites; online job boards and Graduate Directories.

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.

Opportunities are advertised through:

- [FNQ Volunteers](#)
- [Volunteering North Queensland](#)
- [Townsville Community Directory - volunteering](#)
- [Cairns Community Directory - volunteering](#)

Professional Associations

Students are encouraged to investigate [Professional Associations](#) relevant to their major and explore potential student membership. Benefits included access to latest news, innovations and trends, special interest groups, professional development and networking opportunities. Associations linked to your major include:

Anthropology

- [Australian Anthropological Society](#)
- [Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies](#)

Archeology

- [Australian Archeological Association](#)

Criminology

- [Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology](#)

English

- [Australian Society of Authors](#)

History

- [The Australian Historical Association](#)
- [Professional Historians Australia](#)

Human Geography

- [The Institute of Australian Geographers](#)
- [The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland](#)

Human Services

- [Australian Community Workers Association](#)

Indigenous Studies

- [Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies](#)

Modern Languages

- [Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations](#)

Multimedia Journalism and Writing

- [Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance](#)

Politics and International Relations

- [Australian Political Studies Association](#)

Sociology

- [The Australian Sociological Association](#)