

BACHELOR OF 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 the [JCU Career Action Plan](#)

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 pursue a career in professions such as anthropology, archaeology, creative arts, criminology, history, human services, journalism, politics and international relations, languages, literature and creative writing (JCU 2018 Undergraduate Study Guide, p18).

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 major accounting firms, 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 **non-Arts related professions**, such as law, teaching, information management/librarianship, life sciences, 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, health care and community services, sport and recreation, arts and culture.

Career Paths

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

- Education
- Business Development
- Community and Social Services
- Arts and Design
- Operations
- Media and Communication
- Healthcare Services Sales
- Sales
- Administration
- Research

The top ten employers of JCU BA alumni on LinkedIn are:

- James Cook University
- Queensland Department of Education
- Queensland Health

- The University of Queensland
- Townsville City Council
- Griffith University
- Queensland University of Technology
- Telstra
- RMIT University
- Australian Broadcasting Corporation

The **JCU Alumni LinkedIn page** provides information on current and past employers and positions held by BA graduates. Source: [James Cook University Alumni 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 Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter sites 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

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

Employer Websites

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

Graduate Recruitment Directories

- [GradAustralia](#)
- [Graduate Opportunities](#)
- [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 www.jcu.edu.au/postgraduate 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 the graduate has 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 www.jcu.me/find-an-advisor 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.

Internships

An Internship is a component of the final year capstone subject -- Arts Edge.

Internships are designed to offer students practical experience to enhance their knowledge and skills plus gain exposure to the breadth of services offered by the employer. They are an opportunity to develop your professional networks and gain work experience in your field of interest.



Some internships are competitive and applicants need to demonstrate initiative and competence.

To gain a competitive edge, BA students may seek to undertake additional internships or work experience during their studies. 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. Students are recommended to consider:

- Volunteering for opportunities presented through their degree
- Becoming a Student Mentor
- Becoming involved in community organisations, particularly in areas related to their future career plans.

Opportunities are advertised through:

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

Professional Associations

Students are encouraged to investigate Professional Associations relevant to their discipline area and to consider student membership.

Membership in a professional organization is a clear signal to employers about commitment to a students' area of interest and professional development.

The benefits of membership include access to industry news, career opportunities and job vacancies, networking opportunities, conferences and other professional development opportunities.

