

ZOOLOGY and ECOLOGY CAREER SNAPSHOT



 **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 access the [JCU Career Action Plan](#)

LIFE SCIENTISTS

Fast Facts

 **\$1,645**
Weekly Pay ?

 **6,600 workers**
Employment Size ?

 **Moderate**
Future Growth ?

 **Very high skill**
Skill level rating ?

 **Average unemployment**
Unemployment ?

Source: [Job Outlook 2018](#)

Graduate Opportunities

Zoology and Ecology provides hands-on field experience, as well as excellent training in analytical thinking and scientific research methods that are relevant to a broad range of careers.

Graduates are employed in a diverse range of positions including:

- Zoologists
- Ecologists
- Environmental and Conservation Managers
- Biosecurity Officers
- Quarantine and Border Security Officers
- Customs and Immigration Officers
- Environmental Policy Officers
- Environmental Consultants
- Rehabilitation Scientists
- Data Analysts
- Research Assistants and Technical Officers
- Animal Carers
- Wildlife Consultants
- National Park Officers

Graduates find employment with local, state, and federal government departments and non-government

agencies including research institutions, universities, environmental consultancies, conservation organisations, quarantine and biosecurity. Employers include:

- Australian Government [Department of Environment and Energy](#)
[Department of Agriculture and Water Resources](#)
- Queensland Government [Department of Environment and Science](#)
[Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy](#)
[Department of Agriculture and Fisheries](#)
- [CSIRO](#)
- [Australian Institute of Marine Science](#)
- [Australian Wildlife Conservancy](#)
- Natural Resource Management Boards
- Natural Resource Assessment Consultants
- Environmental Management Agencies such as [Wet Tropics Management Authority](#), [Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority](#)

Graduates may choose to undertake postgraduate study in order to

specialise in a particular area of interest within their discipline or pursue further studies in an area outside of science, such as education, law, business, journalism and finance.



Over 2000 JCU alumni have listed 'zoology' and / or 'ecology' within their **LinkedIn profile**. Source: [James Cook University Alumni LinkedIn](#) retrieved 5 September 2018

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

Environmental Career Profiles

The **Environmental Job Network** publication '[Environment Profession Career profiles – 2017](#)' provides useful information from individuals employed in 29 different environmental positions. The publication covers their career paths, salaries, workload, generic skills essential for the positions, plus advice to individuals wishing to pursue a career in this field.



This information is correct as of September 2018. JCU Careers and Employment does not endorse any of the organisations listed.

Job Opportunities and Employer Expectations

Online job boards, graduate recruitment directories, employer websites, Facebook pages, LinkedIn accounts and twitter feeds provide information on **job opportunities and employer requirements and expectations.**

It is important students work towards gaining skills, knowledge and experience identified to ensure they are competitive when entering the graduate labour market.

Online Job Boards

- [Environmental Jobs Network](#)
- [NRMjobs environmental jobs](#)
- [Ethical Jobs Environment and Sustainability Jobs](#)
- [Careers at CSIRO](#)
- [Seek](#)
- [JCU CareerHub](#)
- [Australian Job Search](#)
- [Australian Public Service recruitment](#)
- [Queensland Government Jobs](#)
- [GreenCareer](#)
- [Conservation Job Board](#)
- [Australia Zoo](#)
- [Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Job Board \(USA\)](#)

Subscribe to **NRMjobs weekly email** bulletin, to receive job vacancy alerts in the environment, water and natural resource management field.

Graduate Recruitment Directories

Directories provide information on graduate jobs, graduate programs, internships and vacation programs

- [GradAustralia](#)
- [GradConnection](#)
- [Graduate Opportunities](#)
- [Queensland Government Graduate Portal](#)
- [APS jobs Graduate Programs](#)

Tap into online forums eg. [Glassdoor](#) and [Whirlpool Forum](#) to view discussions on employers and recruitment experiences.

Professional Associations

Student membership with a Professional Association 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.

Membership benefits include access to industry news and trends, professional development materials, advertised jobs, conferences and other networking events.

Explore your eligibility to join:

- [Ecological Society of Australia](#)
- [Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand](#)
- [Australian Network for Plant Conservation](#)
- [Australasian Wildlife Management Society](#)
- [Royal Zoological Society of NSW](#)

Workplace Experience and Skills

Gaining **career relevant experience** before you graduate can improve your job prospects and help you stand out against other applicants. Employers are able to **see you perform** and determine your potential as a future employee and **you gain valuable insight** into the type of job/field of employment you might enjoy.

Employers often **require you to provide evidence** that you have applied your skills and knowledge in a work context.

Transferrable skills commonly listed in relevant job advertisements include – stakeholder management, project management, teamwork, collaboration across disciplines, utilization of information systems and technology, complex problem solving, community engagement and customer service. Take every opportunity to develop these skills in preparation for graduate employment.

Volunteer work will give you practical experience, grow your networks and gain referees.

Think about areas of zoology or ecology that interest you most and seek out volunteer opportunities in that area. Opportunities are listed on:

- [North Queensland Conservation Council](#)
- [Conservation Volunteers Australia](#)
- [Wet Tropics Management Authority](#) links to numerous volunteer organisations
- [NQ Dry Tropics](#)
- [Cairns and Far North Environment Centre](#)
- [Australian Wildlife Conservancy](#)

- [Seek Volunteer](#)
- [Ecological Society of Australia](#)
- [FNQ Volunteers](#)
- [Volunteering North Queensland](#)
- [Billabong Sanctuary](#)
- [Townsville City Council Community Directory](#)
- [Cairns City Council Community Directory](#)

Vacation and Internship Programs

are generally offered by employers to students in the middle / final years of their degree. If successful, these programs may lead to graduate employment with the employer.

Graduate Programs

While the majority of graduates will find employment with small or medium size employers, a number of graduates will gain entry into **Graduate Programs** offered by large organisations or government departments.

Graduate programs are structured professional development positions where successful applicants are offered on the job training and mentoring within the organisation.

These programs generally **recruit students throughout their final year of study** for commencement in the following year. Applications open as early as March.

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

Make Yourself Stand Out

Employers want to know you can offer more than your educational qualifications. Be proactive, get involved and stand out from the crowd.

- Attend relevant professional development opportunities. Keep a record of attendance
- Compete in student environmental challenges and competitions
- Volunteer to assist academics or PhD students' research
- Become involved in community activities, organisations and events. Employers value community engagement work
- Become a Student Mentor at JCU
- Volunteer at the annual JCU Careers Fair, network with employers.