

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 [Career Ready Plan](#)

Graduate Opportunities

The JCU Bachelor of Science with a major in 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
- Research Assistants and Technical Officers
- Animal Carers
- Wildlife Consultants
- National Park Officers

Environmental Scientist

	Average age 38 years
	Future Growth Strong
	Gender Share 44% female
	Average full-time 43 hours
	Weekly Pay \$1,779
	Skill level rating Very high skill
	Unemployment Lower unemployment
	Full-Time Share 75% Full-Time
	Employment Size 4,200 workers

Zoologist

	Average age 42 years
	Future Growth Moderate
	Gender Share 43% female
	Average full-time 45 hours
	Weekly Pay \$1,794
	Skill level rating Very high skill
	Unemployment Average unemployment
	Full-Time Share 72% Full-Time
	Employment Size 710 workers

Source: [Good Universities Guide](#), February 2023

Graduates find employment with local, state, and federal government departments and non-government agencies including research institutions,

universities, environmental consultancies, conservation organisations, natural resource management boards and assessment consultants, quarantine, and biosecurity.

Employers include:

- Australian Government [Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry](#)
- Queensland Government [Environment and Science, Resources, Agriculture and Fisheries](#)
- [CSIRO](#)
- [Australian Institute of Marine Science](#)
- [Australian Wildlife Conservancy](#)
- Non-government organisations working in environmental fields e.g., [Wet Tropics Management Authority](#), [Terrain Natural Resource Management](#), [NRM Regions Australia](#), [NRM Regions Queensland](#), [NQ Dry Tropics](#)
- Administrative and scientific bodies e.g., [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, journalism.

JCU Alumni Career Paths

The [James Cook University LinkedIn](#) page provides information on JCU alumni (graduates) who have listed 'zoology' and / or 'ecology' within their LinkedIn profile.

Read their resume style LinkedIn profiles to gain a sense of the career paths of zoology and/or ecology students including their job titles and current and past employers.



The [Enviro Jobs Network](#) site provides useful information on environmental career paths, job profiles, salaries and tips for obtaining an environmental job.



Job Opportunities and Employer Expectations

Online job boards, graduate recruitment directories, employer websites and social media all provide information on the range of positions and industry areas available to Zoology and Ecology students and graduates.

Job vacancy listings will give you an understanding of **employer expectations** for various positions.

It is important you work towards **gaining the skills, knowledge and experience** you identify to ensure you are competitive when entering the graduate labour market.

Online Job Boards

- [Environmental Jobs Network](#)
- [NRM jobs](#)
- [Ethical Jobs Environment and Sustainability](#)
- [Careers at CSIRO](#)
- [Seek](#)
- [LinkedIn Jobs](#)
- [JCU CareerHub](#)
- [Australian Job Search](#)
- [Queensland Government Jobs](#)
- [GreenCareer](#)

The **NRMjobs email** bulletin, delivers a weekly listing of new job vacancies in the environment, water, and natural resource management field.

Graduate Recruitment Sites

The following sites provide information on graduate jobs, graduate programs, internships (including virtual internships), and vacation work.

- [Prosple](#)
- [GradConnection](#)
- [Queensland Government Graduate Portal](#)
- [Australian Government Graduate Programs](#)

Tap into online forums e.g. [Glassdoor](#) and [Whirlpool Forum](#) to view employee reviews and ratings of key employers and discussions on recruitment requirements and employment experiences.

Professional Associations

Student membership with a career relevant 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 often 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](#)
- [Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand](#)
- [Australian Network for Plant Conservation](#)
- [Australasian Wildlife Management Society](#)
- [Royal Zoological Society of NSW](#)

Workplace Experience

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. You also 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.

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.

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

Volunteer work will give you practical experience, develop your skills, 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. Volunteer opportunities are listed on:

- [Wet Tropics Management Authority](#) links to numerous volunteer organisations
- [Cairns and Far North Environment Centre](#)
- [Conservation Volunteers Australia](#)
- [North Queensland Conservation Council](#)
- [Australian Wildlife Conservancy](#)
- [NQ Dry Tropics](#)
- [Landcare Australia](#)
- [TropEco](#)
- [Volunteering Dry Tropics Facebook](#)
- [Seek Volunteer](#) – Environment and Conservation
- [Billabong Sanctuary](#)
- [Digivol](#) – research diversity of plant and animal life
- [FNQ Volunteers](#)
- [Volunteering North Queensland](#)

Graduate Programs

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

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

Organisations **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 throughout your studies towards ensuring you have the skills, knowledge and experience expected.

Make Yourself Stand Out

Employers look for well-rounded applicants. **Be proactive, get involved and stand out from the crowd.**

- Attend relevant professional development opportunities. Keep a record of attendance on your resume and LinkedIn profile.
- Volunteer to assist academics or PhD students' research.
- Become involved in community activities, organisations, and events.