

# ZOOLOGY AND ECOLOGY

## Maximise your employability



### Career 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.

**Graduate Positions:** Graduates are employed in a diverse range of positions including:

- *Federal, state and local government 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 Educators*
- *National Park Officers*

**Graduate Employers:** Graduates find employment with local, state, and federal government departments and non-government agencies including research institutions, environmental consultancies, conservation organisations, quarantine and biosecurity. Employers include:

- *Australian Government Department of Environment*
- *Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection*
- *Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads*
- *Local Government*
- *Greening Australia*
- *Queensland Government Department of Natural Resources and Mines*
- *Department of Agriculture and Water Resources*
- *Wet Tropics Management Authority*

Graduates may branch out into areas of the workforce not always directly related to their Zoology and Ecology study area. They are employed in positions where they can use the skills and knowledge gained through their studies.

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.<sup>1</sup>

### Explore Your Options

To understand current demand areas and the scope of roles available, search current vacancies in the websites below.

#### Australia

- [Enviro Jobs](#)
- [NRM jobs](#)
- [Careers at CSIRO](#)
- [SEEK - Farming-animals-conservation/conservation-parks-wildlife](#)
- [SEEK - Science-technology/environmental-earth-geosciences](#)
- [Australian Job Search](#)
- [Queensland Government Graduate Portal](#)
- [Graduate Opportunities](#)
- [Australian Wildlife Conservancy](#)
- [Ecological Society of Australia](#)
- [GreenCareer](#)
- [JCU CareerHub](#)

#### International

- [GoAbroad \(Zoology and Wildlife Sciences Jobs Abroad\)](#)
- [Conservation Job Board](#)



## Investigate Employer Expectations

Investigating job vacancy listings will inform you of **employer expectations and requirements** for various graduate positions. This information will enable you to identify your **areas of strength and weakness**.

It is important to read all information available in a job advertisement and on the recruiting company's website, in order to understand what they are looking for in candidates.

Future employers may require that you possess particular work skills or training such as First Aid or Workplace Health and Safety.

### Develop a Career Action Plan

Be proactive, make a plan and work towards filling any **skills, knowledge or experience gaps** you identify, so that you are competitive when entering the graduate labour market.

#### Steps to fill the gaps may include:

- Attending professional development courses in addition to your studies
- Volunteering to gain experience relevant to your studies
- Taking up opportunities to develop your work skills (e.g. teamwork, interpersonal and communication, customer service, time management) in your part-time employment
- Checking the JCU Careers and Employment '[Skills Employers Want](#)' information sheet to gain a greater understanding of skills employers often seek

## 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. Employers often prefer to recruit someone they know or have met so take advantage of every opportunity to meet professionals in your field.

### Attend Key Events

Attend the annual JCU Careers Fair, JCU TESS Seminars, JCU Market Day, Industry Panels, Information Sessions, etc.

For further ideas go to JCU Careers and Employment [Connecting with Professionals](#)

## Join Your Professional Association

Professional Associations and peak bodies represent different professions and industries and assist with maintaining a standard of professionalism through accreditation, professional development opportunities, networking, advocacy and representation to government and other sectors.

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.

Associations hold regular professional development and networking events and students are often welcome to join.

#### Explore your eligibility to join:

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

### Network via Social Media

Social media is a key way to connect with your profession and hear of future opportunities. Careful use of LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter will expand your networks and lead to job opportunities. Social media is widely used by employers to promote job opportunities, recruit staff and research job applicants.

You need to ensure you maintain a **professional online presence**.

## LinkedIn

LinkedIn is a **professional networking site** that helps individuals connect with other professionals. It is fast becoming a recruitment hunting ground for employers.

It is recommended that you create a **professional LinkedIn profile** and actively participate on LinkedIn.

LinkedIn will enable you to connect with professionals working in your field, join relevant LinkedIn groups, follow and contribute to group discussions and follow employers of choice and influential people relevant to your career interests.

## Gain Career Relevant Experience

Gaining career relevant experience can improve your job prospects and help you stand out against other applicants. Employers are given the opportunity to see you perform and determine your **potential** as a future employee.

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

Course relevant experience gives you **valuable insight** into the type of job you might enjoy and helps provide additional direction and motivation throughout your studies.

Course relevant experience may be gained through **Work Integrated Learning, course placements or internships, vacation work and volunteering.**

For further ideas go to [JCU Careers and Employment Course Relevant Experience](#).

## Volunteer

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.

For example, if you're interested in working in environmental research, you could volunteer with a JCU research fellow or PhD candidate.

If you wish to develop your wildlife conservation skills you could volunteer for a local national park authority.

### Volunteer Options

- [JCU Careers and Employment Volunteer page](#)
- [North Queensland Conservation Council](#)
- [Conservation Volunteers Australia](#)
- [FNQ Volunteers](#)
- [Volunteering North Queensland](#)
- [Volunteer at Australia Zoo](#)
- [Ecological Society of Australia - Events and Activities](#)
- [Australian Wildlife Conservancy](#)
- [Global Vision International Charitable Trust](#)

## 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.

- Join your **JCU Student Club or Society** eg. JCU Sustainability Club – join in their campus activities and like their Facebook page
- Attend relevant professional development opportunities and build your knowledge and employability. Keep a record of attendance
- Subscribe to, or read **relevant industry journals**
- Become **involved in community activities**, eg. volunteer organizations, School P & C, charities, service clubs. Employers value community engagement work
- Become a **Student Mentor at JCU**
- Volunteer at the annual **JCU Careers Fair**

## Key Job Search Strategies

- Remember, employers prefer to recruit individuals they know, have seen perform or have been recommended.
- Use a variety of job seeking methods – look further than just checking online job sites
- Be proactive: identify organisations you are interested in - check their websites for opportunities, follow their Facebook page and Twitter feed (if available)
- Actively participate on LinkedIn, join relevant groups, connect with professionals, develop an impressive profile
- Network to broaden your contacts – connect with future employers

## Final Word

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

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

**Reference:** 1. James Cook University 2017, *Bachelor of Science, Majoring in Zoology and Ecology*, accessed 5 September 2017, <https://www.jcu.edu.au/courses-and-study/courses/bachelor-of-science-in-zoology-and-ecology>

Visit our website to [jcu.edu.au/careers](http://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](mailto:careers@jcu.edu.au)  
Website [jcu.edu.au/careers](http://jcu.edu.au/careers)

