

Graduate Opportunities

Bachelor of Business (Management) graduates have endless opportunities to pursue local, national or international opportunities, all thanks to the degree's strong focus on engagement with employers and industry, both within Australia and overseas.

Your business degree will encourage you to learn about identifying the best people for the job and motivating, developing and directing people as they work towards achieving the organisation's goals.

All JCU Business Management graduates are expected to have completed foundation studies in diverse areas such as accounting for decision making, economics for sustainable business, contemporary business communications, business data analysis and interpretation, managing consumer markets and business law.¹



Diversity of Disciplines and Skills

The types of skills that Business Management Graduates are renowned for include:

- Entrepreneurship
- Strategic planning
- Operations management
- Problem solving and negotiation
- Systems evaluation
- Critical thinking
- Motivation and leadership
- Understanding business law
- Research and decision making for business
- Organisational behaviour

Business Management Positions

There is a wide variety of positions that a degree in Business Management will equip you for. Examples include working for:²

- Multinational corporations
- Federal and state government departments
- Not-for-profit organisations
- Business consultancies
- Small and medium sized enterprises
- Your own or a family business

Depending on your area of interest and/or expertise, such as another major area of study you may have completed, you may undertake a role such as*:

- General manager
- Corporate services manager
- Policy and planning manager
- Supply, distribution and procurement manager
- Advertising, public relations and sales manager
- Finance manager
- Customer service manager
- Human resources manager
- Organisation analyst
- Production manager
- Research and development manager

For further ideas or to read the profiles on these management positions please visit [Job Outlook](#).

**Note: Not all of these positions will be available to graduates without prior experience or specific knowledge.*

“Managers plan, organise, control and coordinate the operations of government, commercial and other organisations and departments.”

- Australian Jobs 2017³

Professional Associations

Graduates are eligible to become members of most of the peak professional bodies representing the business community. If membership is not possible, subscriptions to latest news, publications and announcements are often available.

- [Australian Institute of Management](#)
- [Business Council of Australia](#)
- [Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#)
- [Institute of Management Consultants](#)
- [Australian Institute of Training and Development](#)
- [Institute of Managers and Leaders](#)

Current University students should also consider having student memberships to relevant professional associations, in order to be aware of the opportunities present in the industry and the chance to attend any relevant events and receive member newsletters and emails. There are many other professional bodies, especially those that represent professionals in a particular industry, such as human resources, recruitment and consulting, international business, finance etc.

Graduate Employers

Australia's most sought after Business Management (Consulting) Graduate Employers², based on a survey of Australian University students are:

1. The Boston Consultant Group
2. McKinsey and Company
3. Accenture
4. Bain and Company

The top 5 Government and Public Service employers for graduates in business include:

1. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
2. Department of Education and Training
3. Department of Social Services
4. Australian Security Intelligence Service
5. Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Explore Australia's Top 100 Graduate Employers further by visiting: <https://gradaustralia.com.au/top-100-employers>

Enhancing Your Employment Prospects

Build Your Professional Networks

Join a Mentoring Program

Many professional associations, such as those listed above, offer mentoring programs. For example, the Institute of Managers and Leaders offers a free, four month national mentoring program for its members.

Attend Local Industry Events

If you are looking to remain working locally, consider investing time in developing your local networks by attending events and joining committees. Contact your local council and find out what events they run for business professionals. There are often networking breakfasts and lunches or seminar series with guest speakers, such as the quarterly [Townsville Industry Breakfast](#) or [Cairns Chamber of Commerce](#).

Research Employer Expectations

Checking online job boards provides you with an understanding of various job opportunities plus requirements and expectations for the positions.

You can then work towards improving gaps you may identify in skills, knowledge or experience required, so that you are competitive when entering the graduate labour market.

- [JCU Careerhub](#)
- [Graduate Opportunities](#)
- [Australian Job Search](#)
- [Queensland Government Jobs](#)
- [Australian Public Service recruitment](#)
- [Unigrad](#)
- [Seek vacancies](#)
- [GoinGlobal \(International opportunities\)](#)

Network via Social Media



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.

Show Initiative, Be Involved

Employers want to know you can offer more than your educational qualifications. Be proactive, get involved and demonstrate your initiative. Consider becoming involved in community organisations, School P & C, charities, sporting clubs etc. and think how this experience relates to your future employment in business management.

[Explore the paid employment on offer at JCU.](#)

Examples of positions include:

- Careers Fair Staff
- Student Mentor Program Support Officer
- JCU Student Ambassador Program

Volunteering Opportunities

Gaining experience before you graduate is essential, as employers want to know that you have put the skills and knowledge you have been developing into practice. Volunteering is a great way to gain experience and form professional networks prior to graduating.

Some opportunities to consider will be listed on the following websites:

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

Key Job Search Strategies

- Use a variety of job seeking methods – look further than just checking online job sites
- Develop a list of search terms relevant to the roles common in your industry
- Be proactive – identify organisations you are interested in and check their websites for opportunities, follow their facebook page and Twitter feeds
- Join relevant groups, connect with professionals, develop an impressive profile
- Network to broaden your contacts and connect with future employers
- Check the vacancies advertised on the industry professional association websites – subscribe to their newsletters

Key Graduate Websites

[APS Jobs](#)

[Gradconnection](#)

[Labour Market Information Portal](#)

[Graduate Careers Australia](#)

[Graduateopportunities.com](#)

[Graduateemployability.com.au](#)

[QLD Government Graduate Portal](#)

Australian Government website listing current APS graduate programs Graduate jobs and internships in Australia.

This Government website brings together data from a range of official sources to help you understand your local labour market.

View the 'career planning and resources' section including career profiles. Published by Graduate Careers Australia, this website contains the latest information on employers and their graduate programs, graduate jobs and internships, facts and figures etc.

There is a section for students to explore with advice to students, videos, graduate stories, resources etc.

This site allows you to register your interest in all Queensland government graduate opportunities.

Professional Development Certificate (PDC)

JCU's Professional Development Certificate (PDC) – *Building Blocks to Graduate Employability*, was introduced in 2017 to new first year Bachelor of Business students. The PDC offers students a unique advantage to get a head start on their career development. It runs parallel with the degree as preparation for the core final year Work Integrated Learning (WIL). The PDC, combined with the Work Integrated Learning (WIL) experience in the final year of study, effectively develops essential career development and employability skills for transitioning into professional employment. Students can learn more about the PDC by visiting <https://www.jcu.edu.au/wil/business>.

Considering Postgraduate Study

- Post-graduate study can provide you with the opportunity to specialise in a particular field and can offer a competitive edge to enhance your employability upon graduation. Students often choose to complete a Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma or a Master's Degree
- Common areas of post-graduate study completed by students with a Bachelor in Business include: Master of Business Administration, Master of Conflict Management and Resolution, Master of Economics, Education (Leadership and Management), Master of Accounting, Doctor of Philosophy (Management and Commerce)
- Explore the range of postgraduate courses on offer at JCU: <https://www.jcu.edu.au/courses-and-study/course-level/postgraduate>

Final Word

- Graduate success is dependent on your active engagement with your future career throughout all of your degree. JCU provide a range of useful resources on the Careers and Employment homepage <https://www.jcu.edu.au/careers-and-employment>
- 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

References

1. James Cook University (2017). Why study Business Management at JCU? Accessed 19 September 2017. <https://www.jcu.edu.au/courses-and-study/courses/bachelor-of-business-in-management>
2. GradAustralia (2017). *Australia's Top 100 Graduate Employers*. Accessed 19 September 2017 <https://gradaustralia.com.au/top-100-employers>
3. Australian Government Department of Employment (2017). *Australian Jobs 2017*. Accessed 19 September 2017. <https://docs.employment.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/australianjobs2017.pdf>

Visit our website to 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
Website jcu.edu.au/careers

