

ACCOUNTING – 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](#)


Fast Facts


Avg. Weekly Pay ?
\$1,400 Before Tax


Future Growth ?
moderate


Skill Level ?
Bachelor Degree or higher


Employment Size ?
189,100


Unemployment ?
below average

Source: [Job Outlook 2018](#)

Graduate Opportunities

Accounting is the life blood of every business. Every company or organisation from large multi-national corporations to small or medium sized businesses require some form of accountant.

Accountants are valued for their commercial know-how, analytical thinking and leadership abilities.

Accountants possess invaluable and highly transferable skillsets that can be a jumping board to higher level business positions.

Graduate Positions

Accountants provide services relating to financial reporting, taxation, auditing, insolvency, accounting systems, budgeting, cost management, planning and decision making by organisations and individuals, and advice on compliance and performance requirements to ensure statutory and strategic governance.

Source: [JobOutlook](#) retrieved 10 July 2018

With further study, specialisations include:

- Financial Accounting
- Management Accounting
- Governmental Accounting
- Tax Accounting
- Auditing
- Forensic Accounting
- Project Accounting
- Social or Corporate Social Responsibility Reporting
- Sustainability Accounting

Source: [JCU Bachelor of Business](#) retrieved 10 July 2018

Snapshot of JCU Accounting Graduates

Over 4,000 JCU alumni have listed 'accounting' within their **LinkedIn profile**.

Many JCU accounting alumni on LinkedIn currently work for the following organisations:

- James Cook University
- Crowe Horwath Australia
- Grant Thornton Australia
- BDO in Australia
- PwC
- Qld Dept of Education

- EY
- Commonwealth Bank
- Australian Taxation Office
- KordaMentha
- Townsville City Council
- Pacific Chartered Accountants

JCU accounting alumni list that they are working within:

- Accounting
- Business Development
- Finance
- Sales
- Operations
- Education
- Administrative
- Support
- Information Technology
- Consulting
- Program and Project Management

Investigate alumni LinkedIn profiles to identify:

- Career pathways
- Current and past employers
- Professional groups belonged to

Source: [James Cook University Alumni LinkedIn](#) retrieved 10 July 2018



Opportunities

Online job boards and directories provide information on **job opportunities** and **employer requirements and expectations**.

- [Seek vacancies](#)
- [JCU Careerhub](#)
- [Australian Job Search](#)
- [Queensland Government Jobs](#)
- [Australian Public Service recruitment](#)
- [GradAustralia](#)
- [Graduate Opportunities](#)

Job opportunities are also posted on **employer websites, Facebook pages, LinkedIn accounts and twitter feeds**.

JCU College of Business, Law and Governance emails and Facebook posts also alert you to undergraduate and graduate opportunities.

Researching Industries and Organisations

The following sites provide useful information on potential future employers relevant to your degree.

- [Australian Accountants Directory](#) – 11,465 accountant firms listed
- [Financial Review](#) – Top 100 accounting firms 2017
- [BankerBay](#) – global platform – listing of accounting firms industry companies in Australia
- [IBISWorld](#) provider of industry market and company research
- [Glassdoor](#) company reviews and ratings
- [Seek](#) company search function
- [Great Place To Work](#)
- [Companies under 100 employees](#)
- [Between 100 and 999 employees](#)
- [Over 1000 employees](#)

Professional Associations

The JCU B Business (Accounting) degree is accredited with:

- [Certified Practising Accountants Australia \(CPA\)](#)
- [Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand \(CAANZ\)](#)
- [Association of Chartered Certified Accountants \(ACCA\) – the global body for accountants](#)

With further studies graduates are eligible for membership with these

professional bodies. Consider applying for **student membership** whilst at university. The benefits include access to industry news and trends, professional development materials, advertised jobs, conferences and other networking events.

Also consider joining **accounting related groups on LinkedIn** in order to network and gain professional development.

Workplace Experience

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.

In addition to your **WIL Placement / Internship**, take advantage of all opportunities to gain experience in order to develop your course relevant and general work skills and professional networks.

Vacation Programs

Vacation programs are generally offered to students in the **penultimate (second) year** of their accounting degree.

The programs are generally held over the December / January / February period for four to six weeks. They are designed to offer students practical experience to enhance their skills and exposure to the breadth of services offered by the employer.

BDO (Nth Qld), Crowe Horwath, Grant Thornton are examples of employers offering vacation programs. Applications often close early in the year (April) for the following Christmas vacation program.

Vacation program opportunities are posted on:

- employer websites and social media
- job boards eg. JCUCareerHub
- Graduate Directories eg. [GradAustralia](#), [Graduate Opportunities](#), [Queensland Government Graduate Portal](#)

Cadetships

Employers may offer employment / cadetship opportunities for students to

work part or full time while completing their university studies.

Employers may require students to be at a particular stage of their studies, often in the first or second year of their degree. Contact local firms to identify possibilities of undergraduate employment.

Volunteer Programs

Volunteering in an accounting / business role provides an opportunity to give to the community plus develop work skills and network.

Accounting related volunteering opportunities are listed on:

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

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 organisation or government departments.

These programs generally **recruit students throughout their final year of study** for commencement in the following year.

Successful applicants are offered on the job training and mentoring within the organisation.

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.

Graduate programs are advertised through:

- Employer sites and social media
- [GradAustralia](#)
- [Graduate Opportunities](#)
- [Queensland Government Graduate Portal](#)

Useful Free Job Guide



[GradAustralia Accounting Breakthrough Series 2018 ebook](#)