

LAW CAREER SNAPSHOT

BOOST YOUR EMPLOYMENT 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 [JCU Job Ready](#)

Graduate Opportunities

JCU Law graduates are highly valued by the profession in our region, across Australia, and overseas.

Opportunities for employment of JCU Law graduates exist in a wide variety of areas. Common areas of legal practice include business and commercial law, environmental law, property law, criminal law, taxation law, corporate law, bankruptcy and insolvency, wills and estates, intellectual property law, anti-discrimination law, and family law.

In addition to traditional legal practice, there are many legal and quasi-legal roles in government, not-for-profit organisations, industry and business. In many of those roles, graduates are not required to be admitted as a lawyer or hold a practising certificate, it is the broad range of skills law graduates possess that is attractive to employers.

Students can build employability by studying a joint degree including Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Laws. The knowledge, skills and additional qualifications gained through completion of a joint degree offers increased graduate opportunities and access to alternative professions.

Over 3,400 JCU alumni have listed 'law' within their **LinkedIn profile**. Investigate their profiles to identify

career pathways and current and past employers of JCU Law graduates.

The top ten employers of JCU Law alumni listed on LinkedIn are: JCU, QLD Police Service, QLD Health, Australian Taxation Office, Maurice Blackburn Lawyers, QLD Government, QLD Dept of Education, Wilson/Ryan/Grose Lawyers, Connolly Suthers Lawyers, Dept. of Defence.

In addition to legal positions, the top ten fields JCU Law graduates are employed in are: business development; operations; education; community and social services; finance; administration, sales; human resources; accounting; and information technology.

Source: [James Cook University LinkedIn](#) retrieved 9 November, 2020.

Further Career, Salary and Market Information

- [Mahlab Specialists in legal search](#)
- [GradAustralia Careers outside of law](#)
- [RRR Law – rewarding legal careers in rural, regional and remote Australia](#)
- [The College of Law - Career options for lawyers](#)

Specialisations

Solicitors – specialise in areas such as property, probate, workers compensation, family law, personal injuries litigation, commercial law or criminal law. Solicitors may work in private legal practices or in state, territory or federal government departments, in community law centres, not-for-profit organisations or within business corporations.



Source: [Job Outlook](#) 2020

Barristers – provide legal advice and draft documents in complex matters. They plead cases before civil, criminal and industrial courts and other tribunals. Generally the barrister is briefed by the solicitor who instructs the barrister on behalf of the client. Barristers are self-employed but normally practice in chambers with other barristers.



Source: [Job Outlook](#) 2020

Accreditation

Graduates of the JCU Bachelor of Laws satisfy the **academic requirements** for admission to practice law in Queensland and through the mutual recognition process, in all Australian states and territories. Completing your Law degree is the **first step** towards being admitted as a legal practitioner.

How to Become a Solicitor

To practice as a solicitor in Queensland requires four steps:

1. Completion of an **approved law degree**
2. Completion of an approved **practical legal training (PLT)** course or a **supervised traineeship**
3. Application for admission to the **Roll of Lawyers**
4. Application for a solicitor's **practising certificate** – this certificate is required to practise law in Queensland.

Further information is available at [Queensland Law Society](#) (Retrieved 9 November 2020).

How to Become a Barrister

The first step is to complete a recognised law degree, followed by practical legal training or a supervised workplace experience. Once admitted as a lawyer, you are then required to obtain a barrister's practising certificate in Queensland. This involves sitting the Bar Exams and completing the Bar Practice Course.

Further information is available at the [Bar Association of Queensland](#)

(Retrieved 9 November, 2020)

Future Proofing Yourself

According to the law profession futures expert Richard Susskind (susskind.com), the following trends are effecting change in dispersing legal advice to commercial clients:

1. Drive to pay less for more, to pay for the results rather than the input (end of the "billable hour", increasing focus on fixed-fee work) and pay only for tailored advice.

2. Automation: due to the pressures outlined in point one some of the more routine work can be automated and delivered 24/7 on a subscription basis thus still creating a stream of revenue.

This highlights the opportunities for lawyers who develop IT and project management skills allowing them to assume hybrid legal positions of the future, such as:

- Legal Technologists – lawyers with IT system management skills
- Legal Process Analysts – lawyers able to break down the legal process into components that can be transferred into an IT system
- Online Dispute Resolution Practitioners
- Legal Project Managers – who allocate the components of a legal process to various service providers, executes quality and ensures it comes together
- Legal Risk Managers
- Legal Management Consultants (R. Susskind, Tomorrow's Lawyers, an Introduction to Your Future, Oxford University Press, 2017)

Identifying Opportunities

Online job boards, graduate recruitment directories, employer websites, Facebook pages, LinkedIn accounts and twitter feeds provide information on the range of positions and industry areas available to law graduates.

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

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

Online Job Boards

- [SEEK](#)
- [Lawyers Weekly](#)
- [JCU CareerHub](#)
- [LinkedIn Jobs](#)
- [Social Justice Opportunities](#)
- [Legal Aid Queensland](#)
- [Australian Public Service recruitment](#)
- [Queensland Government Jobs](#)

Graduate Recruitment Directories

The following sites provide information on graduate jobs, programs, internships and vacation work.

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

Professional Associations

JCU Law students are eligible for student membership with the [Queensland Law Society](#)

Student membership benefits include access to industry specific career information and advice and professional development including conferences, seminars and other face to face, livecast and on-demand events.

Workplace Experience

Gaining **career relevant experience** before you graduate can improve your job prospects and help you stand out against other applicants.

Employers see **evidence of your ability to apply the skills and knowledge gained** through your study and you gain **valuable insight** into the type of job/field of employment you might enjoy.

It is recommended you actively seek law related work opportunities in addition to your completion of the final year Work Integrated Learning (WIL) subjects - Legal Placement, Multidisciplinary Project or Independent Project.

Vacation Programs and Internships are generally offered by employers to students in the middle / final years of

their degree. These programs may lead to graduate employment with the organisation.

Legal volunteer work opportunities are listed on:

- [Court Network](#)
- [Environmental Defender's Office of North Queensland](#)
- [Cairns Community Legal Centre](#)
- [Townsville Community Legal Service](#)
- [Community Legal Centre Volunteers](#)
- [Queensland Advocacy Incorporated](#)
- [Women's Legal Service Qld](#)
- [FNQ Volunteers](#)
- [Volunteering North Queensland](#)

Graduate Programs vs Graduate Positions

Graduate programs are paid structured professional development positions offered by large organisations or government departments to recent graduates. Successful applicants are offered on the job training and mentoring.

Organisations **recruit students in their final year of study** for commencement in the following year. Applications open as early as March.

Graduate Positions - Employers, particularly small to medium sized organisations, may not offer formal graduate programs and will recruit when a position arises. Identify organisations of interest and familiarise yourself with their recruitment practices.

Stand Out

Employers value well rounded applicants. **Be proactive, get involved and stand out.**

- Join [Inter Alia Cairns JCU Law Society Cairns, JCU Law Students' Society Townsville](#)
- Follow [Far North Queensland Law Association FNQLA](#) or [North Queensland Law Association NQLA](#) facebook pages for latest news and events.
- Undertake relevant professional development. Keep a record on your LinkedIn profile and resume.
- Develop an impressive LinkedIn profile, connect with professionals
- Compete in student law related [competitions and challenges](#) to develop skills and demonstrate initiative.