

# LAW

## Career Information



### Graduate Opportunities

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

As a Law student you will gain an appreciation of the role of law in social, economic, environmental and political contexts and its significance for stable government, economic prosperity and the protection of individual and cultural rights.

Lawyers provide advice, write documents and conduct negotiations on legal matters, and may represent clients in court and tribunal proceedings.

Opportunities for employment of JCU Law graduates exist in a wide variety of areas and can include careers in:

- \* Legal practice as a Barrister or Solicitor
- \* Business and commercial law
- \* Environmental law
- \* Property law
- \* Criminal law
- \* Taxation law / corporate law / bankruptcy / insolvency
- \* Family law

A legal qualification is also the starting point for many other careers in areas such as commerce, industry and government. Law graduates are employed in policing, industrial relations, legal publishing, insurance, academia, advocacy and lobby groups. Skills developed during a law degree, such as problem solving and communication, are very attractive to employers across a wide range of areas.

#### Joint Degrees

Students studying joint degrees gain expertise in a complementary discipline in addition to the necessary legal knowledge and skills required to apply for admission as a barrister or solicitor. Graduates can pursue a broad range of careers in either a specialised area of law or in non-law specific careers.

#### Specialisations

**Solicitor** – 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 or with business corporations.

**Barrister** – provide legal advice and draft documents in complex matters. They are advocate specialists. Generally the barrister is briefed by the solicitor who instructs the barrister on behalf of the company or client. Barristers are self-employed but normally practice in chambers with other barristers.

#### JCU Law Graduate Positions

**Recent JCU Law graduates** are employed in a diverse range of positions including:

*Solicitor, Legal Support Officer, Project Officer, Senior Public Trust Officer, Judge's Associate, Legal Clerk, Paralegal / Conveyancer, Company Director, Business manager, Contracts Manager, Justice Mediation Officer.\**

#### JCU Law Graduate Employers

**Employers of recent JCU law graduates include:**

*Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Public Trustee, Australian Taxation Office, MacDonnells Law, Queensland Courts, Law Solutions, Lee Williams Associates, Gun Lawyers, Wilson/Ryan/Grose Lawyers, Legal Aid, Connolly Suthers Lawyers, Barristers Chambers, Department of Justice and Attorney-General \**

\* JCU Graduate Destination Data



## Accreditation Requirements to Practice Law

Completing your Law degree is the first step towards being admitted as a legal practitioner.

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.

Further practical training is required to practice law.

## How to Become a Solicitor

The [Queensland Law Society](#) provides the following information.

To practice as a solicitor in Queensland involves four steps:

1. Completion of an approved law degree
2. Completion of an approved practical legal training (PLT) course or a supervised traineeship. PLT courses cover training in areas such as ethics, legal writing and drafting, interview skills and other common practice-related skills.

Supervised traineeships are a form of on-the-job training which offer the opportunity to gain practical knowledge in a practice environment while earning a wage.

3. Application for admission to Roll of Lawyers
4. Application for a solicitor's practising certificate – this certificate is required to practise law in Queensland.

## How to Become a Barrister

Whilst the academic and admission requirements for barristers and solicitors are the same, to obtain a barrister's practising certificate in Queensland you will need to undertake further studies after you are admitted as a solicitor followed by one year of mentoring and supervision.

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

For further information on post degree accreditation requirements contact the [Legal Practitioners Admissions Board](#)

# Enhancing Your Employment Prospects

## 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.

### Network with Professionals

Take advantage of every opportunity to meet professionals. You can ask questions about their work in law and let them get to know you too, which is helpful when you start applying for jobs. Attend the annual JCU Careers Fair, Student JCU Inter Alia Association events, JCU Market Day, Law Ball, Industry Panels, Information Sessions, etc.

#### On campus

- JCU InterAlia – join their facebook page

#### Off campus

- FNQ Law Association – [www.fnqla.com.au](http://www.fnqla.com.au)

### Join a Mentoring Program

[FNQ Law Association Mentoring program](#)

This program aims to match law students with like-minded legal professionals. The program will primarily target final year law students who are faced with the challenging transition from student to graduate lawyer. We expect that the mentor will provide the student with a realistic expectation of legal practice and share their own experiences as a former law student with the students.

### Join Your Professional Association / Club

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 and exploring career and employment opportunities. Associations hold regular professional development and networking events and students are often welcome to join.

## Network via Social Media

Careful use of Social Networking – LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter will expand your networks and lead to job opportunities. Not only is social media the ideal way to connect with your profession it is also now used by employers to recruit staff and research job applicants.



**LinkedIn** is fast becoming employers' recruitment hunting ground. In addition most employers will google

you when considering you for a position.

You need to ensure you maintain a professional online presence – a professional LinkedIn profile is the key way to achieve this.

## Gain Career Relevant 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.

Employers are interested in the application of your theoretical knowledge and also your general skills eg. interpersonal, communication, team skills.

Think about areas of law that interest you most and seek out volunteer or paid opportunities in that area. Legal related volunteer work will give you practical experience, grow your networks and referees.

**Legal related volunteer opportunities include:**

- **Court Network**  
[www.courtnetwork.com.au](http://www.courtnetwork.com.au)
- **Environmental Defender's Office of North Queensland**  
[www.edonq.org.au](http://www.edonq.org.au)
- **Cairns Community Legal Centre**  
[www.cclc.org.au](http://www.cclc.org.au)
- **Townsville Community Legal Service**  
[www.tcls.org.au/](http://www.tcls.org.au/)



**Other opportunities to consider include:**

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

## Monitor Vacancies to Determine Opportunities and 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 any skills, knowledge or experience, so that you are competitive when entering the graduate labour market.

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

## Show Initiative, Be Involved

Employers want to know you can offer more than your educational qualifications. Be proactive, get involved.

- Become involved in community organisations – volunteer organizations, School P & C, charities, sporting clubs, service clubs etc. and think how this experience relates to your future employment in law
- Undertake extra courses to build your knowledge
- Become a **Student Mentor at JCU**
- Become a **JCU Student Ambassador**
- Volunteer at the annual **JCU Careers Fair**

## Key Job Search Strategies

- 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 if available Twitter feeds
- 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 maximize opportunities when they arise.

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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)

