

Universities differ from high schools in many ways. Preparation starts from day one, and it involves a variety of responsibilities. You need to be organised and actively participate in all learning activities. You can then receive support from lecturers, tutors, and competent staff members when needed.

Activities	High School	James Cook University
Enrolment	Parents and/or guardians enrol students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Enrolment is primarily managed by students. ✚ The University provides support with enrolment. ✚ Domestic enrolment teams & International Support Teams are located on both campuses. ✚ Steps for enrolment: https://www.jcu.edu.au/students/enrolment
Identity	Both staff members and students are likely to know you by name.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ You must make yourself known by networking with students and staff. ✚ Numerous networking activities are offered by the staff (e.g., seminars, workshops, and international events) ✚ There are various student clubs that you can join
Mode of study	Mainly face-to-face.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Study options are offered internally and externally. ✚ Lectures and practicals can either be online or in person. They are for both internal and external students.
Classes	Classes are normally small (<30).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Class sizes are variable and are dependent on subject and study mode. ✚ Some subjects are offered to a limited number of students.

Attendance

Attendance is compulsory.

- ✚ Only certain practicals or tutorials are mandatory to attend to pass the subject.
- ✚ Attendance at most lectures is not mandatory. It is your responsibility to make it a priority that you attend.

Technology

Students may have access to different levels of technology. The access is dependent on the school. Assessments may still be submitted on paper.

- ✚ Students are required to check their e-mail daily.
- ✚ Most assignments are submitted online via LearnJCU.
- ✚ Students are required to use an array of tools, such as PowerPoint, word, excel, SPSS, R, and GIS.
- ✚ Licences to most tools are provided to all students enrolled by the University.
- ✚ Access to the tools is available on and off-campus.

Learning

Teachers direct learning, providing prompts and reminders.

- ✚ Learning is self-directed.
- ✚ Each subject has its own tailored outline that contains the content delivery mode, expectations, assessments, recommended and required readings, and an overview of weekly contents and tasks.

Assessment

Teachers direct assessments with prompts and reminders.

- ✚ Assessments are listed in the subject outline provided at the beginning.
- ✚ It is your responsibility to respect due dates and follow the guidelines provided correctly.

Referencing

Students learn the basic elements of referencing their research resources.

- ✚ Detailed referencing is required, follow the referencing style indicated in the subject outline.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plagiarism won't be tolerated, and penalties will be applied. It is the students' responsibility to be aware of the many forms of plagiarism.
Exams	Infrequent and mainly limited to senior years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be one of the key assessment items required to pass the subject. Exams mostly occur in the 2-week exam block at the end of each semester. Exceptions are listed in the subject outline. Academic calendars show when the major exam weeks are scheduled: https://www.jcu.edu.au/students/academic-calendars
Deadlines	Teachers may allow extra time on assignments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignments must be submitted by the due date, or penalties on the final grade will occur. Extensions can be granted under special circumstances (e.g., medical).
Results	Communications are sent to parents/guardians.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student communications are confidential. Students can access their grades privately.
Academic year	Four school terms with breaks for holidays.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The year is divided into two main study periods (1 and 2)
Timetable	School hours are regular and predictable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each student's timetable varies depending on their course. Students often have multiple options on when to attend practicals and tutorials when larger classes are split into groups.

Jobs

Some students have part-time jobs.

- ✚ Most students work and need to balance study and work commitments.
- ✚ JCU provides lists of job opportunities through CareerHub.
- ✚ Volunteering positions are available on campus to gain experience in your field of interest.

Costs

Costs are predictable and payable within a certain timeframe.

- ✚ Costs vary across degrees and courses.
- ✚ Additional costs can include student fees, books, uniforms, specialised equipment, and field trips.
- ✚ Fees are payable before the due date listed on eStudent, and refunds can occur in case of drop-outs within a certain timeframe from course commencement.

Useful strategies can be found listed in the link below:

<https://researchonline.jcu.edu.au/42790/6/42790%20Taylor%202016.pdf>

Strategies that we highly recommend include...

- Always keep your goal in mind.
- Based on your goal, plan and choose your subjects carefully.

We then share what Taylor (2016) recommends in the link above...

- After choosing your subjects, be organised and plan ahead.
- Create a nice study area that inspires you to pursue your goal.
- Attend classes and actively participate with questions.

And also, don't forget to...

- Expand your knowledge by seeking new sources of information.
- Use feedback to improve.
- Seek support if needed: <https://www.jcu.edu.au/students>

Reference:

Taylor, D. (2016). *iAspire Student Support*. James Cook University.
<https://researchonline.jcu.edu.au/42790/>