

# EARTH SCIENCE CAREER SNAPSHOT

## Career Opportunities

Earth Science equips you to take up a range of career opportunities in Australia and internationally. You will develop skills in soil and water science, geomorphology, resource management, environmental impact assessment, and mine site rehabilitation. Graduates are employed in local, state, and federal government departments and non-government agencies and consultancies. Graduate employers include:

- *Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines*
- *CSIRO*
- *Geoscience Australia*
- *Natural Resource Management Boards*
- *Natural Resource Assessment Consultants*
- *Environmental Management Agencies such as Environment and Heritage Protection and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service*

Graduates may choose to undertake postgraduate study in order to specialise in a particular area of interest within their discipline, or pursue further studies in an area outside of science, such as education, law, business, journalism and finance.

## Understand Your Options and Investigate Employer Expectations

To understand current demand areas and the scope of roles available, search current vacancies in the websites below.

### Australia

- [NRM jobs](#)
- [Soil Science Australia - Employment Opportunities](#)
- [GradAustralia-Earth Science Graduate Jobs](#)
- [Seek - Environmental, Earth and Geoscience Jobs](#)
- [Careers at CSIRO](#)
- [APS Jobs-Science and Health Careers](#)

- [Jobactive](#)
- [Queensland Government Graduate Portal](#)
- [Graduate Opportunities](#)
- [JCU CareerHub](#)

### International

- [InfoMine-Careers](#)
- [Earthworks-Jobs.com](#)
- [New Scientist Jobs](#)

Over 1080 [JCU Alumni listed on LinkedIn](#) have “earth science” included in their profiles. The top 20 employers include James Cook University, BHP, Evolution Mining, Rio Tinto, CSIRO, Department of Natural resources, mines and Energy (QLD), Geoscience Australia, Anglo American, South 32, MMG Limited, Kirkland Lake Gold KL), Curtin University, Mining Associates, Terra Search Pty. Ltd., Minotaur Exploration.

Take time to review career paths of JCU alumni, note the organisations and positions that led them where they are now, the professional groups they have joined on LinkedIn and consider inviting them to connect, ask them some questions about their career progression and what made them successful.

To understand current demand areas and the scope of roles available, tasks involved, knowledge and skills sought by employers, search weekly current vacancies in the following websites and save interesting positions for future reference. From the job adverts you can identify the tasks, activities and skills required for jobs of your interest and set up a skill development agenda to address over the course of your studies.

## Stand out: Gain Skills & Experience While At Uni

### Develop a Career Action Plan

Be proactive, make a plan and work towards filling any **skills, knowledge or experience gaps** you identify, so that you are competitive when entering the graduate labour market. **Steps to fill the gaps may include:**

- Attending professional development courses in addition to your studies
- Volunteering to gain experience relevant to your studies
- Taking up opportunities to develop your work skills (e.g. teamwork, interpersonal and communication, customer service, time management) in your part-time employment
- Checking the JCU Careers and Employment ‘[Skills Employers Want](#)’ information sheet to gain a greater understanding of the skills employers often seek.



### 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

further ideas access the [JCU Career Action Plan](#)

Some co-curricular activities do not require any previous experience, such as joining [a student club](#) and joining functional teams (projects, events, campaigns, managing the club and its finances, recruiting new members, managing the Facebook page etc.) so those are a great way to build experience and confidence. You could also participate in the [Mentor Program](#) to develop your client consulting skills first as a mentee and later as a mentor. Another great opportunity to develop teamwork and cross-disciplinary collaboration, leadership, project management and communication skills including presenting and selling your solutions to the client (pitching) are [student competitions](#) (e.g. *Thought for Food Challenge, Ideas for Action, Go Green in the City,*



*ClimateLaunchpad, Famelab, Top100 Future Leaders Competition* etc.).

Participation in those competitions is a proof to employers that you have enterprising skills (identifying problems and taking initiative to address them). If you develop a taste for entrepreneurship and want to find out more you might like to contact:

- [iNQ](#)
- [JCU Connect](#)

[Study Abroad](#) semester included in your study, for example in Singapore where JCU has an established campus, could be a great way to develop international industry networks, your global acumen, cultural sensitivity, resilience and adaptability.

Volunteering in a [general](#) or an environmental role provides an opportunity to give back to the community, develop networks, work skills and experiment with your course content. Opportunities can be sourced from:

- [Wet Tropics Management Authority](#)
- [Conservation Volunteers](#)
- [Australian Wildlife Conservancy](#)
- [Seek Volunteer](#)
- [Volunteering North Queensland](#)
- [Townsville City Council Community Directory](#)
- [Cairns City Council Community Directory](#)

Engaging in a [part time job](#) and [mapping out the transferable skills](#) you develop would also be highly regarded by future employers.

You may be able to engage in a [placement subject](#) as part of your study that could give you an opportunity to get a taste of working in your industry.

Earth Science specific vacation experiences and internships can be found in the general student experience job boards and graduate recruitment directories such as:

- [GradAustralia](#)
- [Graduate Opportunities](#)
- [GradConnection](#)

...as well as in mining specific directories

- [HotRubble](#)
- [Infomine](#)

Most large mining companies that employ earth science and geology

graduates may offer “vacation programs”, for example:

- [Shell](#)
- [Barmenco](#)
- [KGCM](#)
- [Newcrest](#)
- [Santos](#)
- [Evolution Mining](#)

Further opportunities can be identified by reviewing careers tabs of the companies listed in the following directories:

- [Iminico](#)
- [Mininglink](#)
- [AZO Mining](#)
- [Mining and Exploration](#)
- [Queensland Resources Council](#)

Tap into online forums e.g. [Glassdoor](#) and [Whirlpool Forum](#) to view discussions on employers and recruitment requirements and experiences.

## 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.

Employers often prefer to recruit someone they know or have met so take advantage of every opportunity to meet professionals in your field.

### Attend Key Events

- [The annual JCU Careers Fair](#)
- [JCU TESS Seminars](#)
- [JCU Market Day](#)
- Industry Panels,
- Information Sessions, etc. advertised through [JCU Events](#) and/or [JCU Career Hub](#).

For further ideas go to JCU Careers and Employment [Connecting with Professionals](#).

### Join Your Professional Association

Professional Associations and peak bodies represent different professions and industries and assist with maintaining a standard of professionalism through accreditation, professional development opportunities, networking, advocacy and representation to government and other sectors.

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. Associations hold regular professional development and networking events and students are often welcome to join.

### Explore your eligibility to join:

- [Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand \(EIANZ\)](#)
- [Australian Water Association](#)
- [Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology \(Ag Institute Australia\)](#)
- [Australian Institute of Horticulture Inc.](#)
- [Soil Science Australia](#)
- [Royal Meteorological Society- Student and Early Career Members \(UK\)](#)
- [The Australian Minerals Institute \(AusIMM\)](#)

### Network via Social Media

Social media is a key way to connect with your profession and hear of future opportunities. Careful use of LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter will expand your networks and may lead to job opportunities. Social media is widely used by employers to promote job opportunities, recruit staff and background-check job applicants. You need to ensure you [maintain a professional online presence](#).

## Key Job Search Strategies

Remember, employers prefer to recruit individuals they know, have seen perform or have been recommended

- Use a variety of job seeking methods – do not rely solely on online job listings
- Be proactive: identify organisations you are interested in - check their websites for opportunities, follow their Facebook page and Twitter feeds (if available)
- Actively participate on LinkedIn, join relevant groups, connect with professionals, develop an impressive profile
- Network to broaden your contacts and connect with future employers