Preparing to go home

Staying in touch with JCU

Alumni
Welcome to a whole new lifelong relationship with JCU and the opportunity to stay in touch with the friends you have made here during your studies. Alumni benefits include:
- Providing a life – long link to JCU after you graduate
- Helping to keep you in touch with old friends and professional contacts after you leave
- Promoting JCU, thereby enhancing the value of your degree.

To sign up to be part of the Alumni program go to: www.alumni.jcu.edu.au

JCU email address
Once you have graduated from JCU, your @my.jcu.edu.au account will remain active. It is deemed to be an email account for life.

Where are you now?
The International Student Support Team would like to know what you and your family get up to once you leave JCU, so please keep in touch with us:
Email: International@jcu.edu.au
Facebook: James Cook University International
Address: International Student Support
James Cook University
Townsville, QLD, 4811
(send us a postcard)

Returning Home Checklist
- Submit all required assessment
- Return library books and pay any outstanding debt
- Complete an online Application to Graduate form (full degree students only)
- Apply for copies of your academic record through the Student Centre
- Update your contact details on eStudent with your home (overseas) address
- Notify your landlord or real estate agent of your departure and finalise any lease requirements including applying for refund
- Pay outstanding bills (i.e. phone, electricity)
- Close bank accounts
- Leave forwarding address at the Post Office (charges apply) or with relevant people so they can redirect any mail
- Collect all necessary travel documentation
- Notify schools of your children’s departure and arrange school reports (if required)
- Submit a Tax Return to the Australian Tax Office

For more information
www.jcu.edu.au/international
Reverse Culture Shock
People who have lived abroad may find that they experience some difficulties when returning home. This is a normal experience and is referred to as ‘reverse culture shock’.

While you may be looking forward to going back home, there may be things about living in Australia and studying at JCU that you will miss. You may not realise how much you have also changed.

Don’t let reverse culture shock get you down! Deal with it the same way you dealt with culture shock as ‘reverse culture shock’.

• Appreciate
• Be flexible and open minded
• Avoid having a superiority complex
• Talk to others who have studied abroad and have successfully readapted
• Be flexible and open minded
• Be patient with yourself and others
• Appreciate the privilege of having two homes.

Results and Academic Transcripts
Results
The release date of results can be found at www.jcu.edu.au/results.
You can access your results via eStudent at: https://secure.jcu.edu.au/eStudent
Make sure that you check your results as soon as possible after the release of results date. You can find an explanation of the JCU grading system here: https://www.jcu.edu.au/grading-grading-system
Make sure you keep an eye out for any “NS” grades. This means that you have failed the subject but have been granted a supplementary exam. Please get in contact with James Cook International as soon as possible to discuss sitting your exam offshore.

Academic transcripts
For Study Abroad and Exchange students, one free JCU academic transcript will be sent to your agent or home university at the end of your program. The complementary academic transcript will be sent 2-3 weeks after the official results are published.

All other students can apply for an academic transcript via the Student Centre. Please see www.jcu.edu.au/graduation for further details on how to apply.

Please note that an academic transcript will not be provided if you owe any money to the University. You can check for any outstanding fees or fines on eStudent.

Academic transcripts can be found here: www.jcu.edu.au/graduation

Graduation
Information about the dates and times of graduation ceremonies can be found here: www.jcu.edu.au/graduation

For full degree students, if you have completed the requirements for your course and wish to graduate, you must complete the online graduation application form which is available here: https://www.jcu.edu.au/graduation/graduation-forms

Any student who does not wish to attend a Graduation Ceremony can have their award conferred in absentia at a University Council meeting (Tick the appropriate box on the form). Students who request to graduate in absentia, will be mailed their certificate to a nominated address and then be unable to participate in any future ceremonies.

Students who complete their degree mid-year have the option to graduate in absentia or they may attend the next scheduled faculty graduation ceremony which may not be until the following year. Students who opt to attend a graduation ceremony will not receive their transcript until graduation. If proof of completion for the degree is required prior to graduation an official academic transcript indicating completion may be purchased.

Prior to your travel. Keep in mind domestic and international flights may have different baggage allowances.

You can contact courier companies such as Jeta Express www.jeta.com.au, Pack & Send www.packandsend.com.au or Australia Post to obtain quotes for the cost of sending home your belongings. Make sure you compare costs to get the cheapest deal.

Moving out
Moving out is not always straightforward as it may seem. Depending on the terms of the contract you signed when you moved in, there may be various rights and responsibilities you are bound to uphold.

Giving notice
In most situations you are required to give at least 28 days’ notice to your real estate agent or landlord in writing. If you are in shared accommodation you often need to give 28 days’ notice too. If you don’t you may be required to pay keeping rent for the 28 day period from the day you move out. Check out www.rta.qld.gov.au for more details.

Utilities
If you have any ongoing utility accounts such as gas, water, electricity, telephone, internet and cable television, and notify them that you will be moving out. You will need to tell them the last day you will be living there and provide them with a forwarding address so they can send you your final bill.

Quarantine and Inspection Service at http://www.customs.gov.au/visitors/visitors-coming-to-australia, and notify them that you will be moving out.

Visa
Make sure you are aware of what you can and can’t take out of Australia, and what you are allowed to take into your home country.

For more information please visit the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service at www.homeaffairs.gov.au/travel/guides/travellingabroad.

Visas, Bank Accounts, Tax Returns and Supranouncement
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Please note that staff at JCU are unable to provide advice about visa and other Department of Home Affairs (DHA) matters.

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For information, contact DHA by phone 131 881 or visit www.homeaffairs.gov.au.

Bank Accounts
Most students returning home find that the best thing to do is to close their bank accounts before leaving Australia so they are not charged fees for keeping the account active while out of the country.

To close your account, visit your bank’s local branch and they can pay out your final balance over the counter. Don’t forget to cancel any automatic deductions that come from this account such as bills, rent or loan repayments. If you don’t stop these payments, you will usually be charged a fee.

Tenancy
If you have worked in Australia and had income tax deducted from your wages, make sure you apply for an income tax refund before you leave Australia by lodging a Tax Return.

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