You can lodge your Tax Return online via the Australian Tax Office website (www.ato.gov.au) and follow the prompts for e-tax online Tax Return. Alternatively you can find a qualified tax consultant to submit your Tax Return for you. Please note any refunds you are entitled to can only be paid into an Australian bank account. Cheques can be posted overseas but will be paid in Australian dollars. The Australian Taxation Office has reciprocal taxation arrangements with most other countries so your Australian income can be included with income received from your home country.

Superannuation
Superannuation or 'super' is a way of saving money for your retirement. Your employer will have made superannuation payments into a super fund on your behalf. International students who have worked in Australia are eligible to access their superannuation once they permanently depart Australia. Instructions on how to access your superannuation are available at ato.gov.au/individuals.

More studies?
JCU's International Undergraduate and Postgraduate Prospectus are available here: www.jcu.edu.au/international/publications.

You can submit your application for a new course by emailing icadmissions@jcu.edu.au or drop in your application to the Student Centre. Deadlines for application submission apply, contact icadmissions@jcu.edu.au for more information.

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

Email:
International@jcu.edu.au
Facebook: James Cook University International
Address: JCU International
James Cook University
Townsville, QLD, 4811

Where are you now?
James Cook International like to know what you and your family get up to once you leave JCU, so please keep in touch with us.

You can submit your application for a new course by emailing icadmissions@jcu.edu.au or drop in your application to the Student Centre. Deadlines for application submission apply, contact icadmissions@jcu.edu.au for more information.

Preparing to go home

For more information
www.jcu.edu.au/international

CRICOS PROVIDER CODE 00117J
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 realize 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 when you arrived at JCU. Be open and proactive. Do things that make you happy to be home and you’ll eventually ease into it.

Here are some tips that might help:
- Remember the coping strategies that you developed when you first got to Australia and use them again.
- Expect to have good days and bad days in dealing with culture shock.
- Refrain from bombarding your friends and family with nonstop pictures and stories from your time in Australia.
- 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/student/Calendar. You can access your results via Student at https://secure.jcu.edu.au/StudNet. 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: www.jcu.edu.au/student/assessments/exams/JCU_103875.

Make sure you keep an eye out for any “HD” 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 offline.

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 from the Student Centre. Please see www.jcu.edu.au/graduation/record 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 eCfidnet.

If you require an official letter of completion from JCU while waiting for your degree to be confirmed, please contact your faculty office by emailing:

College of Science, Technology & Engineering
tes.enrolments@jcu.edu.au

College of Marine & Environmental Sciences
tes.enrolments@jcu.edu.au

College of Tropical Health & Medicine
thm.enrolments@jcu.edu.au

College of Arts, Society & Education
case.enrolments@jcu.edu.au

College of Business, Law & Governance
cblg.enrolments@jcu.edu.au

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: www.jcu.edu.au/student/forms/JCU_102721.

Any student who does not wish to attend a Graduation Ceremony may have their award conferred in absentia at a University Council meeting (Tick the appropriate box on the form). Students who require to graduate in absentia, will be mailed their certificate to a nominated address and will 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 graduation ceremony before completion. If proof of completion for the degree is required prior to graduation an official academic transcript indicating completion may be purchased.

Packaging and Moving Out

Packaging
International students returning home are often faced with the difficulty of sending large amounts of excess baggage. Items may be heavy, such as books, and are expensive to transport. Think carefully about what you own and what you really need to take home with you. You will probably find there are a lot of things you don’t need or can easily replace once you get home. For those items which you do want to take, please consider the following suggestions:

- Liaise with your airline early about excess baggage costs. It is often cheaper to purchase an additional baggage allowance online or over the phone rather than at the airline check in counter. You could also find out if your airline allows unaccompanied luggage to be sent prior to your travel. Keep in mind domestic and international flights may have different baggage allowances.
- You can contact courier companies such as Jetta Express www.jetta.com.au, Pack & Send www.packand.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 as 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.

Moving

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 provide the required amount of notice you may be charged a fee.

Receiving

For full degree students, if you have completed your degree mid-year have the option to graduate in absentia or you may attend the next scheduled graduation ceremony. If proof of completion for the degree is required prior to graduation an official academic transcript indicating completion may be purchased.

Making sure you receive the appropriate fee or fine online or over the counter.

Visas, Bank Accounts, Tax Returns and Superannuation

Visas
Please note that staff at JCU are unable to provide advice about visa and other Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) matters.

For information, contact DIBP by phone 131 881 or visit www.immi.gov.au

Bank Accounts
Most students returning home find that the best thing to do is to close their bank accounts before leaving Australia as 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.

Tax
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.

You can download one from www.irta.qld.gov.au.

If there is anything damage to the property and the landlord wishes to withhold all or some of the bond to cover the cost of repairs, this is done using the Bond Claim Form. If there is any dispute please contact the Townsville Housing Resource Unit for assistance.

Customs
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.daff.gov.au/biosecurity.

Also pay attention to airline restrictions on dangerous items such as flammable materials or aerosol carcasses. If you are not sure about something you want to carry with you please contact your airline.
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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:

Make sure you keep an eye out for any “No Grade” results. 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.

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All other students can apply for an academic transcript from the Student Centre.

Please see www.jcu.edu.au/graduation/record 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.

If you require an official letter of completion from JCU while waiting for your degree to be confirmed, please contact your faculty office by emailing:

• College of Science, Technology & Engineering
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• College of Marine & Environmental Sciences
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• College of Tropical Health & Medicine
thm.enrolments@jcu.edu.au

• College of Arts, Society & Education
case.enrolments@jcu.edu.au

• College of Business, Law & Governance
cbg.enrolments@jcu.edu.au

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Students who request to graduate in absentia, will be mailed their certificate to a nominated address and will 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.

Packaging Up and Moving Out

Packaging up

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Liaise with your airline early about excess baggage costs. It is often cheaper to purchase an additional baggage allowance online or over the phone rather than at the airline check in counter. You could also find out if your airline allows unaccompanied luggage to be sent prior to your travel. Keep in mind domestic and international flights may have different baggage allowances.

You can contact courier companies such as JettExpress www.jetta.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 as 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.

Curing 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 have the required keeping paying rent for the 28-day period from the day you move out. Check out www.rita.qld.gov.au for more details.

Utilities

Make sure you contact all utility providers 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.

If you are sharing, please calculate a generous estimate of what you expect each person’s share of the final bills will be, and make sure that everyone has paid for the bills before they leave.

Remember, the person named on the bill is responsible for any outstanding charges. The utility companies will pursue this person until the bill has been settled. It is a good idea to make sure that you have all your roommate’s contact details in case there are any unresolved issues.

Bond

Your bond will be lodged with the Residential Tenancies Bond Authority. You will need to complete a Bond Claim Form which your landlord or rentate agent will give you. Alternatively, you can download one from www.rta.qld.gov.au.

If there is any damage to the property and the landlord wishes to withhold all or some of the bond to cover the cost of repairs, this is done using the Bond Claim Form. If there is any dispute please contact the Townsville Housing Resource Unit for assistance.

Visas, Bank Accounts, Tax

Visas

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Visas are required to remain in Australia and you must have a visa to work. Please visit www.immi.gov.au for more information.

For more information please visit the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service at www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity.

Bank Accounts

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• 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 @jcu.edu.au account will remain active. It is deemed to be an email account for life.

Where are you now?
James Cook International 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: James Cook University International,
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 Graduate Application 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 finalize any lease requirements including applying for bond
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