

Professional Membership



The JCU Bachelor of Social Work and the JCU Masters of Social Work (Professional Qualifying) degrees are accredited by the **Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW)**. Graduates are eligible for full membership of AASW.

AASW is the professional body that sets standards for social work in Australia, and many jobs require eligibility for membership of AASW.

Consider applying for **student membership** of the AASW whilst at university.

This 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. Student members have access to industry news and trends, professional development and networking events.

For information on membership options go to the [Australian Association of Social Workers](#) site.

Job Opportunities

Online job boards and graduate directories provide information on the range of job opportunities available and employer expectations.

You can work towards filling skills, knowledge and experience gaps identified to ensure they are competitive when entering the graduate labour market.

Online Job Boards

- [Seek Social Work vacancies](#)
- [Health and Community Jobs](#)
- [APS Jobs Australian Public Service recruitment](#)
- [Smart Jobs Queensland Government Jobs](#)
- [CareCareers](#)
- [Queensland Health](#)
- [Australian Defence Force](#)
- [CareerOne](#)

For part-time, course relevant and graduate job listings go to JCU's online job board



Graduate Recruitment Directories

- [Queensland Government Graduate Portal](#)
- [APS Jobs Graduate Programs](#)
- [GradAustralia](#)
- [GradConnection](#)
- [Graduate Opportunities](#)

Employers' websites, Facebook pages, LinkedIn accounts and twitter feeds provide information on job opportunities and current topics of interest for Social Work professionals.

Research employer groups within your interest area e.g., Aged Care Facilities Australia; Disability Support Agencies in Australia; Drug and Alcohol Services Australia, Youth and Mental Health One Stop Shops e.g. Headspace.

Search employment fields of interest on **LinkedIn** e.g. Social Work, Community Development, Mental Health.

JCU Alumni LinkedIn Page

Over 5000 JCU alumni have listed **Social Work** within their [LinkedIn profile](#). (Retrieved 31 July 2018)

Investigate JCU [Alumni LinkedIn profiles](#) to identify career pathways and current and past employers of JCU Social Work graduates.

Develop your own LinkedIn profile to ensure you maintain a professional online presence.

Relevant Experience

The JCU Social Work programs place a strong emphasis on **professional practice experience and skill development**.

Maximize every opportunity presented in your degree to develop your skills, knowledge and expertise. Reflect on your experiences and keep records of tasks tackled and skills developed.

In addition to your field placements, it is recommended you actively **seek further social work related volunteer or paid opportunities** to expand your experience and professional networks.

Volunteering

Volunteering is an opportunity to give to the community, grow your

professional and community networks and demonstrate extra commitment to future employers and clients.

You could start with [volunteering on campus](#) as a Student Mentor, Volunteer Note Taker, volunteer at the annual JCU Careers Fair.

Think of areas of Social Work that interest you and seek out volunteer opportunities in that area. For example, if you're interested in working in health, you could volunteer with a patient support group. If you wish to develop your counselling skills or crisis support experience you could be a Lifeline phone volunteer.

Volunteering opportunities are advertised on the [JCU Careers website](#). Check Red Cross, Beyond Blue, Cancer Council, Centacare, Vinnies (Particularly VRAP = Vinnies Refugees Assistance Program), Food Rescue Initiative, Orange Sky, Indigenous Community Volunteers, Lifeline, PCYC, Pyjama Foundation etc.

Further opportunities are advertised through:

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

Show Initiative

Employers want to know you can offer more than your educational qualifications.

Be proactive, get involved and stand out from the crowd.

- Become involved in community activities, organisations and events. Employers value community engagement
- Undertake extra courses to build your knowledge – check out the [Mental Health Professional Network](#) seminars or the professional development offered by AASW eg [Social Work Online Training](#) (SWOT) modules. Keep a record of your training on your LinkedIn and resume
- Be involved in the 'JCU Cairns Social Social Work Club'