

# PHARMACY CAREER SNAPSHOT

 <b>\$1,862</b> Weekly Pay ?
 <b>Moderate</b> Future Growth ?
 <b>Unavailable</b> Unemployment ?
 <b>29,600 workers</b> Employment Size ?
 <b>Very high skill</b> Skill level rating ?
 <b>68% Full-Time</b> Full-Time Share ?
 <b>43 hours</b> Average full-time ?
 <b>34 years</b> Average age ?
 <b>62% female</b> Gender Share

Source: [JobOutlook September 2020](#)

As of 30 June 2017 there were circa 30,000 pharmacists registered with Pharmacy Board which comprises approximately 4.5% of all health practitioners registered in Australia recording 2.2% growth over previous year<sup>1</sup>.

The scene of over 5700 pharmacies, is dominated by the household national franchises who have 25% share of the overall store numbers but 50% of the total value of the industry<sup>2</sup>. In the coming years pharmacies will be expected to take on a growing advisory in addition to the dispensary role as part of the government's drive to shift services and costs away from hospitals<sup>3</sup>.

The pharmacy business may also be influenced by the "seismic shifts" affecting the drug making industry: the push of governments and insurers to reduce price; to base the price paid on the measurable health

outcomes rather than numbers of drug units sold (VBP Value Based Pricing) .The payers are also pushing for change from ongoing treatment to prevention, diagnostics and cure<sup>4</sup>.

A comprehensive overview of the Pharmacy industry in Australia is available on [IBISWorld](#) (to access the full report log in through the JCU Library, LibGuides page).

<sup>1</sup>[AHPRA Annual Report](#)

<sup>2</sup>[CommBank Pharmacy Insights 2018](#)

<sup>3</sup>[BankWest Future of Business: Focus on Pharmacy 2018](#)

<sup>4</sup>[KPMG Pharma Outlook 2030: From evolution to revolution](#)

## Career Options for Pharmacists

While up to 75% of JCU Pharmacy students choose to work in community pharmacies, this course prepares you for a broad range of other exciting careers:

- Hospital pharmacy
- Complex Care Coordinator
- Consultant pharmacy
- Drug Development with start-ups or pharmaceutical companies
- Drug clinical trials
- Regulatory affairs
- Drug Safety Officer
- Life sciences researcher at research institutes: CSIRO
- Entrepreneur in healthcare
- Academic research and teaching
- Health policy with various levels of government and Non-Govt. Organisations
- Management consulting for health- and pharma industry
- Pharmacist professional organisations
- Science communications
- Medical writing

For more information consult the [Pharmacy Careers Guide](#) compiled by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

To practice as a Pharmacist in Australia you must be [registered with the Pharmacy Board of Australia](#) and keep meeting the obligations of the profession.



## BOOST YOUR PROSPECTS



Explore your options and set career goals



Build your networks



Gain experience



Fine tune your job search skills



Show initiative and stand out

Plan your time at the university - access the [JCU JobReady](#).

## Employability Skills and Workplace Experience

Your course will equip you with the professional knowledge, skills and professional placement opportunities to help you meet the requirements of registration as a pharmacist. However depending on the type of work you are thinking of, there are many experiences you can seek parallel to your course to prepare yourself for your career.

For example if you are thinking of becoming a community pharmacist you might like to start with participating in JCU's award winning [Student Mentor Program](#) where you will develop evidence of caring behaviour and the type of communication skills that are relevant to your future profession.



You could take it a step further by competing for the [Pharmacy Student of the Year \(PSOTY\)](#). To develop your commercial awareness you could participate in the [National Student Business Plan Competition](#). To gain a better understanding of the healthcare environment and learn how to interact with patients in a healthcare setting, you could join the ranks of volunteers with the [Brighter Lives at Townsville Hospital](#).

For networking, public speaking, project management or leadership skills you may like to consider joining and taking up administrative functions in JCU [Student Association's](#) student clubs of interest eg. Pharmacy Students Association or Molecular and Cell Biology Student Association or the [National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association](#).

If you have business interests that may take you to work in the pharma industry sector and you wish to develop the all-important interdisciplinary collaboration skills, look for [industry competitions](#) and other [student challenges and competitions](#), where you can team up with students from another science, business, IT or medicine major. You can also connect with [JCU Connect](#) and [Ideas Lab](#) and explore opportunities to innovate and network with like-minded entrepreneurs and mentors.

[Advance Queensland](#) offers a range of programs in innovation and entrepreneurship in Life Sciences, while [Women in Rural Regional and Remote Enterprises](#) (WiRE) program offers Virtual Business Women Bootcamp and other support. For more information on Life Sciences entrepreneurship access [MedTech and Pharma Growth Centre's](#) (MTPConnect) website.

Studying and volunteering overseas and attending careers fairs are effective ways to develop professional networks and your understanding of the global labour market particularly if you are open to considering a career in areas other than community pharmacy.

- [JCU Study Abroad](#)
- [JCU Careers Fair \(March\)](#)
- [Big Meet Brisbane \(March\)](#)
- [Tips on Graduate Networking](#)

To boost your enterprising thinking and business knowledge check [LinkedIn Learning](#) e.g. Guy Kawasaki on Entrepreneurship; Small Business Secrets; Entrepreneurship Foundations; Design Thinking: Venture Design; Become an Entrepreneur Inside a Company etc.

These courses are available free of charge if you log in to LinkedIn Learning through the JCU Library's website - Learning tab using your JCU Student ID login. You will be able to display any completed courses on your LinkedIn profile for future employers to see.

## Identifying Opportunities

Working as a casual or part time pharmacy assistant is a good way to gain employability skills and industry experience, which may help with some aspects of your degree. Many employers use this as a way to observe you as a possible future employee.

Start early researching jobs and bookmarking established companies and life science startups of interest for internships, graduate programs and junior pharmacy jobs through the following websites:

- [JCU Careerhub](#)
- [Queensland Govt Smart Jobs](#)
- [Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Job Board](#)
- [SHPA Job Board](#)
- [Therapeutic Goods Administration Recruitment](#)
- [Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Intern Program](#)
- [Seek vacancies](#)
- [Glassdoor](#)
- [GradConnection](#)
- [GradAustralia](#)
- [Queensland Government Graduate Portal](#)
- [Australian Job Search](#)
- [Australian Public Service](#)
- [LocumCo](#)
- [Life Sciences QLD Directory](#)
- [AusBiotech Directories](#)
- [BioMelbourne Directory](#)
- [BioPharmGuy: Directory](#)
- [MedicalStartups: Directory](#)
- [AngelList: Healthcare Startups](#)

Job and internship opportunities are frequently posted on employer websites (eg., [AstraZeneca](#), [Takeda](#), [GSK](#), [Pfizer](#), [Johnson&Johnson](#),

[Sanofi](#), [Novartis](#)), LinkedIn, Facebook pages, twitter feeds, via your College emails and Facebook posts.

## Graduate Positions vs Graduate Programs

Large pharmaceutical companies recruit graduates usually once a year for a structured training program. Tap into [Glassdoor](#) and [Whirlpool Forum](#) to find out about the recruitment processes.

Smaller organisations including startups may have openings at any stage and may also be responsive to "speculative applications" (sending in a resume and cover letter that shows how well your interests, skills, experience and knowledge fit with the company's agenda and values).

## Professional Associations

You can demonstrate your commitment to the profession, enrich your education (through conferences, PD and career development courses) and enhance your job search through networking events within a free or discounted student membership of a professional organisation:

- [JCU Pharmacy Students Association](#)
- [National Australian Pharmacy Students Association](#)
- [International Pharmaceutical Students Association](#)
- [Pharmaceutical Society of Australia](#)
- [Professional Pharmacists Australia](#)
- [Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia \(SHPA\)](#)
- [Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy](#)
- [Pharmacy Guild of Australia](#)
- [Australian Pharmacy Council](#)
- [Pharmacy Board of Australia](#)
- [Medicines Australia](#)
- [Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association](#)
- [Association of Regulatory and Clinical Scientists to the Australian Pharmaceutical Industry](#)
- [Australian Pharmaceutical Professionals Australia](#)
- [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#)