

PHARMACY

Career Information

Graduate Opportunities

Pharmacy is the study of the development of drugs used for therapy and their therapeutic effects on the human body. Pharmacists are medicines experts who apply clinical knowledge to practical situations, and are essential to the healthcare system.¹

Pharmacists ensure safe and quality use of medicines and optimise health outcomes by contributing to selecting, prescribing, monitoring and evaluating medicine therapy. Pharmacists may also research, test and develop pharmaceuticals and medical products.²

[The predicted growth of the Pharmacy industry is very strong](#) and the occupation is considered to be large, employing over 25,000 people nationally and expecting to grow to more than 30,000 people by 2020. In particular, there is a shortage of pharmacists in regional locations.²

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia produce a publication called '[Pharmacy Careers Guide](#),' which is a great source of information for current students and new Pharmacy graduates.

Registration Requirements

The [Pharmacy Board of Australia](#) (PBA) is the national body with responsibility for the registration of all Pharmacists and students. Pharmacists are required to be registered with the PBA, which is governed by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). Registration with the PBA must be current for pharmacists to work in clinical settings.¹

Under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law in each state and territory, students enrolled in an approved program of study leading to registration as a pharmacist must be registered.³ There are resources on the PBA's website for students to learn more about the regulatory requirements for the pharmacy profession.

Related Areas to Gain Employment

Other areas where pharmacy skills and knowledge would be relevant, but may require further training, include:¹

- Clinical research
- Product or process development
- Regulation of pharmaceutical and medical products
- Pharmacology
- Toxicology
- Medical or science writing
- Academia and research
- Medical writing

Employment Settings

Pharmacy graduates are employed in the following types of settings:¹

- Community/Retail pharmacies
- Hospital pharmacies
- Industrial/manufacturing settings
- Global healthcare companies (research and testing)
- Government (Medicines regulation and Defence force pharmacy)



Professional Practice Standards: Codes, Guidelines and Policies

The Pharmacy Board of Australia has developed codes, guidelines and policies to provide guidance to the profession. These also help to clarify the Board's views and expectations on a range of issues.⁴ The PBA has produced guidelines in the following areas:

- Compounding of medicines
- Continuing professional development
- Proprietor pharmacists
- Mandatory notifications
- Code of conduct
- Dispensing of medicines
- [Other guidelines as listed on the PBA website](#)



Working in Hospital Pharmacy Settings

A Clinical pharmacist is the term used for pharmacists working in hospitals. There are a range of clinical specialty areas that Pharmacists may specialise in, not limited to the following:¹

- Ambulatory care
- Antimicrobial
- Cardiology
- Clinical trials
- Compounding
- Drug use evaluation
- Emergency medicine
- Endocrinology
- Haematology
- Immunology
- Geriatrics
- Nephrology
- Neurology
- Oncology
- Outpatient
- Paediatric
- Palliative Care
- Poison information
- Sports medicine
- Psycho-pharmacy
- Transplant

Enhancing Your Employment Prospects

Build Your Professional Networks

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.

Join a Professional Pharmacy Association as a Student Member – There are countless benefits of a student membership including access to newsletters, advertised jobs, conferences and networking events etc. Students usually join at a heavily discounted rate. Explore your eligibility to join:

- [Australian College of Pharmacy](#)
- [Pharmaceutical Society of Australia](#)
- [Pharmacy Guild of Australia](#)
- [The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia](#)
- [National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association](#)
- [Professional Pharmacists Australia](#)

Useful Websites

The following websites can be searched for Pharmacy vacancies, taking note of the common selection criteria and desirable skills:

- [Pharmaceutical Society of Australia](#)
- [LocumCo](#)
- [Hays Healthcare](#)
- [JCU Careerhub](#)
- [Graduate Opportunities](#)
- [Australian Job Search](#)
- [Queensland Government Jobs](#)
- [Queensland Government Graduate Portal](#)
- [Australian Public Service recruitment](#)
- [Unigrad](#)
- [Seek](#)
- [Careerone](#)
- [Indeed](#)
- [Your World Healthcare](#)
- [Adzuna](#)
- [Ravens recruitment](#)
- [Defence Jobs Australia](#)

Key Job Search Strategies

- 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
- Actively participate on LinkedIn, join relevant groups, connect with professionals, develop an impressive profile
- Network to broaden your contacts and connect with future employers
- Remember, employers prefer to recruit individuals they have seen perform or know

Volunteering

Gaining experience before you graduate is essential as employers want to know that you have put the skills and knowledge you have been developing into practice. Volunteering is a great way to form professional networks prior to graduating.

Some opportunities to consider include:

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

Show Initiative

Employers want to know you can offer more than your educational qualifications alone. Be proactive, get involved at University and in your community, in order to demonstrate your initiative. Some ideas are as follows:

- Become involved in community organisations, charities, sporting clubs etc. and think how this experience relates to your future employment in Pharmacy
- Become a **Student Mentor at JCU**
- Become a **JCU Student Ambassador**
- Volunteer at the annual **JCU Careers Fair**
- Attend JCU Market Day, Industry Panels, Information Sessions, etc.

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



Using Social Media to Enhance Employment Outcomes

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 lead to job opportunities. Social media is widely used by employers to promote job opportunities, recruit staff and research job applicants.

Company pages: Follow employers of choice and ensure you don't miss their updates and job listings, e.g. Queensland Health, Defence Jobs Australia.



LinkedIn is fast becoming an employer's favored recruitment method. In addition, most employers will google you when considering you for a position.

You need to ensure you maintain a professional online presence – a professional LinkedIn profile is the key way to achieve this.

Considering Postgraduate Study?

- Post-graduate study can provide you with the opportunity to specialise in a particular field and offer a competitive edge to enhance your career
- JCU offers two post-graduate Pharmacy degrees; the Master of Pharmaceutical Public Health and the Doctor of Pharmacy (Research). Other related areas of further study include Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Disaster Health and Humanitarian Assistance, Health Economics and Health Promotion. Course information is available online at <https://www.jcu.edu.au/courses-and-study/course-level/postgraduate>
- Pharmacists may also wish to do further study in Clinical Pharmacy, International Pharmacy, Research, Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Development, Pharmacology, Physiology, Anaesthesiology and Toxicology

Final Word

- Graduate success is dependent on your active engagement with your future career throughout all of your degree
- JCU provide a range of useful Career resources on the Careers and Employment homepage <https://www.jcu.edu.au/careers-and-employment>
- Aim to develop your knowledge, skills, experiences and professional connections during your degree, so that you can meet employer expectations and be ready to maximise opportunities when they arise upon graduation.

References

1. Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (2017). *Careers advice and options for pharmacy graduates: fact sheet*. Accessed on 3 October 2017 from the following website: <https://pharmacistsupport.org/fact-sheets/careers-advice-and-options-for-pharmacy-graduates/>
2. Job Outlook (2017). *Pharmacists Career Profile*. Accessed on 6 October from the following website: <http://joboutlook.gov.au/Occupation.aspx?search=Career&code=2515>
3. Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (2017). *PSA Professional Practice Standards*. Accessed on 3 October 2017 from the following website: <http://www.psa.org.au/practice-support-and-tools/psa-professional-practice-standards>
4. Pharmacy Board of Australia (2017). *Codes, Guidelines and Policies*. Accessed on 10 October 2017 from the following website: <http://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines.aspx>

Visit our website to jcu.edu.au/careers to explore...

Follow us on Facebook and subscribe to our newsletter

- Follow JCU Careers and Employment on Facebook for the latest news.
- Subscribe to the CareerHub Newsletter to be sent a range of job opportunities and news from JCU Careers.

Individual Support

- Our team supports students with their career planning, decision making and job applications. Contact our office to make an appointment.
- During semester visit our **Drop-in desk** on Level 1 in the Library. You can receive feedback on your resume, cover letter, LinkedIn profile or ask us a career related question.
Townsville sessions are held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (2 - 3 pm),
Cairns sessions are held on Tuesday and Wednesday (2 - 3 pm)
- Phone and email support is available to external students or students unable to attend an appointment.

Career Action Plan

- The Career Action Plan is a checklist of actions you can take to increase your chances of graduate employment. We have developed specific plans relating to each stage of your student journey.
- The Career Action Plan is available on our website or call into our office for a copy.

CareerHub

- JCU's online job portal. It lists part-time, casual, vacation, volunteer and graduate opportunities. It also lists career events, news and resources.
- Use your JCU username and password to log in.

Career Development Program

- Develop the skills to increase your employability.
- The Program offers a range of self-help career management modules.

Big Interview

- Learn the best interview techniques.
- Practice just about every question you are likely to get in over 20 industries.
- Video your responses and get feedback from your peers.

Develop an Enterprising Mindset – Skills and Attributes for Career Success

- Job markets are becoming more complex and globalized, so employers now target graduates who are innovative thinkers and leaders. This program contains eight self-paced modules to help you gain these key skills and be competitive in the future job market.

Cairns Campus

Phone: (07) 4232 1150

Location: Level 1, Library

Monday to Friday 9 am – 4 pm

Townsville Campus

Phone: (07) 4781 4711

Location: Level 1, Library

Monday to Friday 9 am – 4.30 pm

Email careers@jcu.edu.au

Website jcu.edu.au/careers

