

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS – WORK WHILE STUDYING

Working While Studying

There are a few things you need to know before you begin to look for work:

- **Apply for a Tax File Number.** This will prevent you from paying too much tax while you are working. You are allowed to work without a tax file number, however the Australian Government will deduct 48.5% of your income if you do not have a tax file number. You can apply for one [online](#).
- **Understand your visa conditions.** It is your responsibility to understand your visa conditions. You will need to know:
 - When you can begin work?
 - How many hours you can work per fortnight during Study Periods and in the vacation?
 - What about volunteer work? Is this part of your permitted work hours?

Regularly visit the [Department of Home Affairs website](#) as visa conditions are subject to change.

- **Working conditions and pay.** Conditions are set by the Australian Government and the law specifies the rates of pay, holidays and paid or unpaid sick leave. Further information for international students is available on the Australian Government's [Fair Work](#) website.
- **Additional Qualifications.** Some jobs will require you to have additional qualifications:
 - [Blue Card \(Working with Children Check\)](#) – required for volunteers and paid employees working with children and young people in Queensland.
 - First Aid/CPR Certificate

For information, download our information sheet [Tips for Finding Part-Time and Casual Work](#)

Staying in Australia

Please be aware that Australia's immigration policy is subject to change. The information provided here is for guidance only and should not be considered formal immigration advice.

Migration advice is available from Registered Migration Agents who charge a fee for their services. To find an agent, see [Migration Agents Registration Authority](#).

Many international students wish to remain in Australia at the end of their course to gain work experience. If this is your goal, it is essential to start planning early.

The Department of Home Affairs is an excellent source of information on how you can take advantage of the post-study work rights available to international graduates from Australian universities.

Research these other opportunities for an Australian working visa.

- [Migration Queensland](#) – Each Australian State and Territory can sponsor General Skilled Migration applicants under a broad range of occupations to fill skills shortages within their local labour markets.
- [Queensland Government Sponsorship](#) – The Queensland Government offers an international postgraduate alumni sponsorship scheme.
- [SkillSelect](#) – International graduates who wish to remain in Australia long term may apply for employer or State sponsorship and permanent residency through SkillSelect.



Returning Home

Many international students will return home at the end of their course. Often, your next goal will be to secure a graduate position in your home country.

Learn how to express the skills you have gained in your overseas experience. Consider skills such as flexibility, resilience, inter-cultural communication and English.

Networking is important in your job search. Keep in touch and grow your network by making the most of the contacts you made while in Australia, e.g. JCU students and staff, employers. Stay connected via [LinkedIn](#) for [JCU Alumni](#). Seek out the local chapter of the Australian Chamber of Commerce in your home country. [Australia Global Alumni](#) is a virtual global network that allows people to connect, build and invigorate the international community of scholars who have studied in Australia and Australians who have studied overseas.

JCU Careers and Employability Resources Online – jcu.edu.au/careers

- **Resume examples**
- **Job portal** – CareerHub (careerhub.jcu.edu.au)
- **Appointments** – Career Planning, Job Application Support – book via CareerHub
- **Career Ready Plan** – Practical tips to help you achieve your career goals
- **Employability Edge** – Online modules to improve your employability
- **Big Interview** – Free resource to help you learn and practice your interview skills
- **Career Snapshots** – job search and graduate opportunities for your course
- **Events, Training and Workshops** - Join our webinars and industry sessions, advertised in CareerHub
- **Cover letter, selection criteria, job search tips**

Useful links

- Apply for a **Tax File Number**: <https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Tax-file-number/Apply-for-a-TFN/>
- Check **working conditions for your visa**: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/working-in-australia/work-rights-and-exploitation/work-restrictions>
- **Working conditions and pay**: <https://www.fairwork.gov.au/tools-and-resources/fact-sheets/rights-and-obligations/international-students>
- **Blue Card** (Working with Children Check): <https://www.qld.gov.au/law/laws-regulated-industries-and-accountability/queensland-laws-and-regulations/regulated-industries-and-licensing/blue-card-services>
- **Tips** for finding part-time and casual work: <https://www.jcu.edu.au/careers/information-sheets>
- **Migration Queensland** programs - <https://migration.qld.gov.au/>
- Migration Queensland – **University Graduates**: <https://migration.qld.gov.au/visa-options/skilled-visas/graduates-of-a-queensland-university>
- **SkillSelect** - <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/working-in-australia/skillselect#>
- **LinkedIn** – <https://www.linkedin.com/>
- **JCU Alumni** – <https://www.jcu.edu.au/alumni>
- **Australia Global Alumni** – <https://www.globalalumni.gov.au/>