

MEDICINE & SURGERY CAREER SNAPSHOT

Study Opportunities

Considering studying Medicine and Surgery at JCU? Then check out: [Medicine - JCU Australia](#)

Clarify your study goals

Prepare yourself for the new world of work by exploring the careers that match your skills and interests. [The Good Careers Guide](#)

Graduate Opportunities

[Medicine](#) is advancing rapidly and concerned with application of biomedical and other life sciences to prevent, diagnose and treat disease.

JCU's advantage is the additional course knowledge and skills related to [rural](#) and [tropical](#) medicine that are sought after in Australia and allows you to work [across the world](#).

Qualifying as a doctor involves following the multi-staged process outlined by [Australian Medical Association](#)

There are many ways to practice medicine including :

- General Practitioner (GP) at the coalface of primary care;
- [Physician](#) – a doctor who specialises in treating a certain set of diseases e.g. related to skin or heart;
- [Surgeon](#) – a doctor who specialises in operating on certain areas of the body or types of disorders e.g. heart or face (reconstruction).
- Other Specialists include anesthesiologists i.e. doctors who are in charge of the perioperative care of patients including managing pain. You can explore and compare those specialisms in this resource authored by [NSW Ministry of Health](#). These specialists work within the public or private health sector, NGOs as well as in the army.

- Furthermore, doctors with interest in research can pursue a career as [Clinician-scientists](#) – practicing specialist doctors with additional training in conducting scientific research working usually at research clinics.
- Doctors with an investigative streak can work as [Forensic Pathologists](#) – specialist doctors conducting medical examinations related to police investigations and post mortem.
- Some pursue non-clinical medical and biomedical research and development – for more information see the relevant passages of the career snapshot for [Biomedical Science](#).

JCU Graduates Employment Data

The [Graduate Outcomes Survey 2020-2022](#) reported the following findings.

	JCU	National Average
Full-time employment	98.5% 133responses	90.00%
Overall employment	98.4% 139responses	92.2%
Continued to Full-time study	5.7% 122 responses	19.5%

Retrieved [ComparED](#). 15 January 2024

Explore more about our Labour markets. [Jobs and Skills Australia -- Home](#)

Intern year and registration

On completing your medical degree, you receive provisional registration and enter the workforce as an intern or postgraduate year 1 (PGY1) doctor. This part of your training lasts for 12 months and is usually undertaken in a public hospital, although interns will increasingly spend part of their training in general practice, community-based settings and private hospitals.

To successfully complete your intern year, you will be required to complete all mandatory core rotations (a medical, surgical & emergency medicine rotation) and normally two non-core rotations. You will also need to pass all your rotations in your intern year satisfactorily.

Once you have completed your intern year you will receive general registration, which will be essential in progressing your career in all clinical and non-clinical medical pathways.

To learn more about becoming an intern, please log in as an AMA Member and visit '[Pathways in Medicine](#)'.

Sourced from <https://www.ama.com.au/resources/how-to-become-a-doctor> January 2023

Employability Skills and Workplace Experience

It is highly recommended that before and during your studies you take the initiative to develop your general experience of the health care sector and effective communication skills with diverse audiences by taking up community [volunteering positions](#).

Get involved.

Membership in AMA , the Medical professional association, is a clear signal to employers about your commitment to the profession and professional development as well as a great way to expand your professional network.

Join the relevant [JCU Student Association Clubs](#) e.g. Medical Students Association, ASHA, RHINO, JCUEDA, and/or Biomed Society.

[Australian Medical Students Association](#)

[Australian Medical Association](#) – free associate student membership

[Rural Doctors Association of QLD](#)

Job Opportunities

You may find internship, trainee and job opportunities in some of the following settings:

- [Mater Health Services](#)
- [Australian Army](#)
- [Doctors without Borders](#)
- [Heart of Australia](#)
- [Queensland Health](#)
- [NSW Health](#)
- [Northern Territory Dept. of Health](#)
- [WA Department of Health](#)
- [Tasmania Department of Health](#)
- [Victoria Department of Health](#)
- [Seek – dentist jobs](#)
- [LinkedIn Jobs](#)
- [JCU CareerHub](#)
- [Smart Jobs Queensland Government](#)
- [APS Jobs Australian Public Service recruitment](#)

Useful Links

[Medical Board of Australia](#)
[Specialist Medical Colleges Directory](#)
[Club RHINO](#)
[Medicine-related Associations Directory](#)
[AMA Queensland Intern Guide](#)
[My Health Career](#)
[Drs Reference Site](#)
[AU Institute of Tropical Health & Med.](#)
[Army University Sponsorship](#)
[National Health & Med Research Council](#)
[Medical Software Industry Association](#)
[World Medical Association](#)
[The International Society for Neglected Tropical Diseases](#)

10 tips from AMA

Studying medicine is challenging. Here are some practical tips to help you make the most of your time as a medical student.

Have a balanced network. Medical students are famous for becoming very close knit and this is for good reason: as your work and routine become more stressful it is important to be able to talk to people in a similar position. However, it's equally important to have non-med friends too. One of the reasons you were accepted into medical school is because of your diverse range of interests and talents.

Become an AMA Student

Member. You will find the resources and advice to steer you through your medical career, and to provide assistance personally and collectively. All State AMAs engage with medical students either directly, through the MedSocs or via representative fora established by those organisations. The AMA has a student representative on its Federal Council – the peak policy-making body of the AMA.

Join AMSA. The Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) is the peak representative body for Australian medical students. AMSA is a vibrant student-run organisation that represents, informs and connects all of Australia's medical students.

Join your local Medical Society. Each medical school in Australia has its own medical student society, fondly known as a MedSoc. These are run by students who organise events, sports teams and nights out, which are a great way to get involved and meet people. They also provide plenty of helpful information and advice for getting through medical school and internship applications.

Take it seriously. The behaviour and volume of work expected of you will be different from other students. You will need to juggle a lot of different elements simultaneously and this will take a level of maturity and time management. There are many ways to study. Don't compare your methods with others. Find out what works for you.

There's more to medicine than reading textbooks. Learn what medicine is all about. Read the latest journal article, case report or reputable medical blog on topics that interest you. It will help bring together all the concepts you are studying and show you how to apply them in real life.

Obtain copies of previous exams. The concepts will be similar, and reading and understanding these will give you a good idea of what to expect on your next exam.

Keep an open mind. Throughout medical school you will meet a huge range of people and they can all teach you something. Seeing and doing as much as possible will enrich your time as a medical student. You may have

your heart set on a speciality now, but most medical students change their mind as they progress.

Enjoy yourself. Studying medicine is rigorous and overwhelming, so make sure you don't burn out by setting aside time to regularly relax. Taking time to do things you enjoy will help you stay invigorated, enthusiastic and better able to cope with the pressures of medical school.

Have a GP. If you are going to be a doctor, having your own GP to advise you on your health, fitness and wellbeing is invaluable.

Sourced from

<https://www.ama.com.au/resources/how-to-become-a-doctor> January 2023

JCU Careers Resources

As a student, consider accessing JCU Careers resources and be job ready by developing your Employability skills.

[Careers and Employability - JCU Australia](#)

Build your employability skills and fine tune your Application Skills

- Resumes
- Application Documents
- Interviews
- LinkedIn

For further ideas access [Career Ready Plan](#)

