

# VETERINARY SCIENCE CAREER SNAPSHOT

## Study Opportunities

Considering studying VET Science at JCU? Then check out:

[Veterinary Science - 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](#)

## Veterinary Careers

Veterinary science is about promoting, restoring and maintaining physical health and comprehensive wellbeing of individual and classes of animals as well as promoting biosecurity and public health in humans. While the JCU course puts emphasis on rural and tropical practice that is sought after in North Queensland, it also prepares for careers in diverse settings. JCU Bachelor of Veterinary Science is an internationally recognised qualification that can take you to a variety of jobs and countries. Examples include (various sources):

- Small/exotic animal vet surgeon with a local clinic or RSPCA
- Farm animal/livestock veterinary surgeon or epidemiologist
- Wildlife or ZOO vet in Australia or overseas
- Animal Emergency Service vet
- Veterinary Officer with Agriculture and Water Resources Dept.
- Animal Health Officer with DEDJTR Victoria
- District Veterinarian with NSW Local Land and Services
- Technical Officer, Animal Biosecurity with Department of Primary Industries
- Policy Analyst – Animal Industries
- Research scientist – veterinary science at the CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory
- Scientific writer (animal health)
- Companion Animal Products Sales Area Manager with Bayer

## JCU Graduates Employment Data

JCU Graduate outcome information for the Bachelor of Veterinary Science and all other Australian veterinary degrees is available on the Australian Government [ComparED](#) site.

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

	JCU	National Average
Full-time employment	97.5% 80 responses	85%
Overall employment	96.3% 82 responses	91.6%
Continued to Full-time study	0% 77 responses	26.2%

Retrieved [ComparED](#), 11 April 2024

The [James Cook University LinkedIn page](#) shows the **top Employers of JCU graduates** are:

- James Cook University
- Green Cross Vets
- The University of Queensland

(Retrieved April 2024)

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

## Registration as Vet

To practice veterinary medicine in Australia you must be registered with the [Veterinary Surgeons Board](#) in the state you wish to practice and comply with the relevant [legislation](#). After at least 3.5 years of practice you may seek membership with the [Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists](#) (ANZCVS) which signifies a high level of competence. With at least 5 years of practice under your belt and further training you can seek endorsement as a [specialist](#)

within the area of veterinary medicine you wish to pursue in depth.

## Gain Skills & Experience While You Study

While your course includes the compulsory professional placements, it is recommended that you identify volunteering and other experiences to develop professional networks and transferable skills. Relevant transferable skills include: ability to comfort clients, build good working relationships with stakeholders, teamwork, tailored communication including explaining medical problems and procedures in plain language, providing easy-to-follow instructions, explaining legal obligations related to your job and animal welfare, OH&S, auditing and quality assurance, customer service, commercial awareness etc. Apart from developing skills and stories for your future job applications, diverse experiences will allow you to deepen your academic learning, test your ideas, values, likes, dislikes in real life and thus develop your professional identity and find your unique career niche. Examples of **volunteering** and **paid experiences** may include:

- Community Activation Team Member [RSPCA](#)
- Animal attendant at a wildlife sanctuary/Animal Welfare League
- Volunteer with [WWOOF](#) at an organic farm with animals
- Volunteer with [Vets Beyond Borders](#)
- Wildlife conservation volunteer
- Animal rights activist/volunteer
- Part time job at a pet shop
- Vet clinic receptionist
- Animal groomer
- [Pet sitter](#)
- Animal Welfare Compliance Officer at a poultry farm
- Vet nurse (requires a TAFE Cert)
- Animal Management/Control Officer (may require a cert III)
- RSPCA Inspector (may require a Cert IV in Govt. Investigation)

When choosing the workplace for your experience please conduct your due diligence ensuring your physical and epidemiological safety, employer's insurance (if not - check [University's insurance policy](#)), workplace policies including anti-bullying and sexual harassment protections. Be familiar with your worker's rights as discussed on [FairWork Australia's website](#).

The veterinary profession often requires enterprising skills. JCU offers a range of free online courses that give you the theoretical background and confidence to experiment with entrepreneurship, for example:

[LinkedIn Learning](#) – the University subscribes to LinkedIn Learning (formerly Lynda.com). If you log in through the University Library website with your JCU student login the courses are free. Consider topics such as *Guy Kawasaki on Entrepreneurship, Small Business Secrets, Entrepreneurship Foundations, Design Thinking: Venture Design, Become an Entrepreneur Inside a Company* etc.

## Professional Associations

Membership in a professional organisation 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. [International Veterinary Students Association](#)

[Australian Veterinary Association](#)

Explore the pages and interest groups on AVA's website. Consider applying for **student membership** which is free of charge. The benefits include access to: newsletters, advertised jobs, professional development programs, conferences and networking events etc. Reviewing and joining foreign professional associations may also lead to useful insights or contacts: [Veterinary Organisations and Associations](#).

## Graduate Programs

Due to the nature of the vet business where the majority of employers are independent clinics (SMEs), there is only a limited number of **graduate programs** with clinic conglomerates and government departments. Successful applicants are offered on the job training and mentoring within

the organisation. Graduate programs are competitive so it is important to understand what is expected and work towards ensuring you have the skills, knowledge and experience they look for. Examples include:

[Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority Graduate Development Program](#)

[QLD Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Greater Graduate Program](#)

[Greencross Vets Graduate Program](#)

[Vet Partners Graduate Program](#)

Candidates for graduate programs are generally recruited throughout their final year of study for commencement in the following year.

To accelerate your learning on your first job you may also consider joining the AVA's [Graduate Mentoring Program](#) which usually recruits from mid-August till end of September (dates may change).

## Graduate Job Search

A great way to enter the workforce, develop networks and diversified experience is through the (rotating) paid internships. Clinics that run **internships** often do so as a way to observe a prospective staff member, so you could start your job search with the clinic you interned with. Further, monitoring the careers tab on your preferred clinic's website or sending in a well targeted *speculative application* are effective job-hunting techniques.

Once you have gained about 2 years of clinical experience, should you want to quickly diversify your experience and earn higher hourly income, consider the temporary jobs called *locums*. You may need to be registered with one of the **recruitment/locum agencies** such as Kookaburra or Vetlink, or work as a sole trader. Sometimes locums are offered to more experienced vets registered with the ANZVCS.

Some jobs are listed here:

[AVA Career Connect](#)

[Kookaburra Veterinary Employment](#)

[ProVet](#)

[Vet & Pet Jobs](#)

[Vetlink Employment Service](#)

## Useful Links

[Animal Health Australia](#)

[Animal Welfare League](#)

[Australia & NZ Lab Animal Association](#)

[Australian and NZ College of Veterinary Scientists](#)

[Australian Animal Health System](#)

[Australian Government Veterinarian Careers](#)

[Biosecurity Queensland](#)

[Department of Agriculture – Animal Welfare](#)

[JCU Veterinary Teaching Hospital](#)

[Mini Vet Guide](#)

[QLD Farmers Federation](#)

[Wildlife Health Australia](#)

[WVVOOF Australia](#)

[Vet Compass](#)

[Vets Beyond Borders](#)

## 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](#)