

# Year 10 Guide

2025 | MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SENIOR YEARS



NO. **1**

in QLD for graduate  
starting salary<sup>1</sup>

NO. **1**

in Australia for  
student support<sup>2</sup>

NO. **1**

in QLD for regional, rural and  
remote health professionals<sup>3</sup>

# JCU: Ready today for tomorrow



Are you going to be the founder of the next Apple, Virgin, Amazon or Facebook? Perhaps you would like to work anywhere in the world? Save lives? Preserve our oceans?

Wherever you may be on your journey of discovery we are committed to you having a student experience that is life changing.

A handwritten signature in white ink, reading 'S Biggs'.

Professor Simon Biggs  
Vice Chancellor and President

*We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the Australian lands and waters where our staff and students live, learn and work. We honour the unique cultural and spiritual relationship to the land, waters and seas of First Australian peoples and their continuing and rich contribution to James Cook University (JCU) and Australian society. We also pay respect to ancestors and Elders past, present and future. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are advised that this publication may contain names or images of people who have passed away.*



This publication is intended as a general guide for domestic students only. Prospective domestic students and all international applicants should contact the University to confirm admission requirements and the availability of courses.

Information is correct at the time of printing.

James Cook University reserves the right to alter any course or admission requirement without prior notice.

Check for updates at [jcu.edu.au](http://jcu.edu.au)

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science,  
numbers  
& tech

i'm  
good  
at



words,  
pictures &  
stories

I want to

Allied health <  
Biomedical sciences <  
Engineering <  
Medicine and dentistry <  
Nursing <  
Pharmacy <  
Veterinary science <

help people

> Arts and social sciences  
> Education  
> Law  
> Psychology  
> Social work

Allied health <  
Biomedical sciences <  
Medicine and dentistry <  
Pharmacy <  
Sciences <

improve  
people's lives

> Arts and social sciences  
> Business and finance  
> Education  
> Law  
> Social work

Engineering <  
Information technology <

build, design &  
create things

> Arts and social sciences

Engineering <  
Science <

improve the  
environment

> Arts and social sciences  
> Business  
> Law

Business and finance <  
Science <

discover how  
money works

> Business and finance  
> Law

Allied health <  
Business and finance <  
Engineering <  
Information technology <  
Medicine and dentistry <  
Pharmacy <  
Science <

explain things  
to people

> Business and finance  
> Education  
> Law

Information technology <

entertain

> Arts and social sciences

<sup>1</sup> Good Universities Guide 2023. <sup>2</sup> QS Sustainability Rankings 2023. <sup>3</sup> Graduate Outcomes Survey 2016-2020, by % of recent graduates. Survey produced and reported by Social Research Centre.

Hey, parents!

Scan the QR code for information and advice to help  
support your child as they step into university.







# Explore our campuses

Tour of JCU Townsville



Tour of JCU Cairns



## Getting ready for university

*As you start looking at subject choices and courses, it's important to have a clear understanding of the ATAR score and its influence on your post-school journey.*

### What is an ATAR?

ATAR is the Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank. The ATAR is not a score out of 100 – it is a rank. It shows a student's achievement in relation to other students.

The highest rank given is usually an ATAR of 99.95. This means they are ranked higher than 99.95% of students in that year. The reason it is not 100% is that the top ranking is usually shared amongst a number of students.

### Why is the ATAR important?

JCU uses the ATAR to assess whether you can meet the academic requirements for your chosen university course.

It is important to understand, however, if you do not meet the ATAR requirements, there are often different study pathways that you can take to get to your desired course.

### Not ATAR Eligible?

There are many pathways to entering university other than receiving an ATAR.

Some Certificate qualifications can give you guaranteed admission into a number of university courses. You can also study our entry pathways to then pursue a Bachelor's degree..

Visit [qtac.edu.au/atar](https://qtac.edu.au/atar)

### Study pattern example



AMY

**Amy has chosen this study pattern for Years 11 and 12.**
































Provided Amy satisfactorily completes English (i.e. achieves a minimum Grade of C or better), she will be eligible for an ATAR because she has five General subjects studied at Units 3 and 4.

English (Units 3 and 4)	General
Mathematical Methods (Units 3 and 4)	General
Specialist Mathematics (Units 3 and 4)	General
Physics (Units 3 and 4)	General
Chemistry (Units 3 and 4)	General



# Choosing your subjects

We understand that choosing your senior subjects can seem like a big deal. Our handy chart makes it easy to see the subjects you'll need for courses at JCU.

Study Areas	English	Mathematical Methods	Chemistry	General Science	Additional application
Arts, Social Sciences and Social Work					
Business and Information Technology	 RECOMMENDED KNOWLEDGE	 RECOMMENDED KNOWLEDGE			
Education		 <sup>1</sup>			
Engineering	 RECOMMENDED KNOWLEDGE	 RECOMMENDED KNOWLEDGE			
Health Sciences		 <sup>3</sup>		 <sup>3</sup>	
Law and Governance					
Medicine and Dentistry					 <sup>4</sup>
Physiotherapy	 RECOMMENDED KNOWLEDGE	 RECOMMENDED KNOWLEDGE		 <sup>2</sup> RECOMMENDED KNOWLEDGE	
Nursing and Midwifery	 RECOMMENDED KNOWLEDGE FOR NURSING, BUT PREREQUISITE FOR MIDWIFERY	 RECOMMENDED KNOWLEDGE		 RECOMMENDED KNOWLEDGE	
Psychology					
Veterinary Science					 <sup>4</sup>
Science	 RECOMMENDED KNOWLEDGE	 RECOMMENDED KNOWLEDGE			
Advanced Science	 RECOMMENDED KNOWLEDGE		 RECOMMENDED KNOWLEDGE		

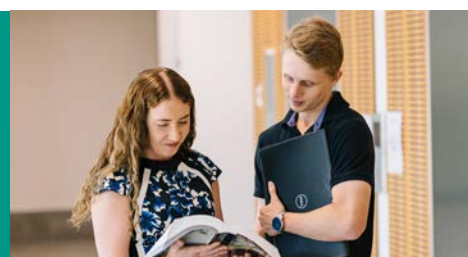
<sup>1</sup> General Mathematics and Specialist Mathematics are also acceptable. <sup>2</sup> One of Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Psychology or Health. <sup>3</sup> Please refer to your chosen Health Sciences course for specific Maths and Science prerequisites and recommended knowledge information. <sup>4</sup> JCU has a two-step application process for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science courses.

Essential English subject meets the JCU English prerequisite requirements except for Education Courses, which must study General English.

This table is a guide. Please contact our Student Centre for further information on 1800 246 446.

## Looking for more?

Discover all of JCU's courses and find out which subjects you'll need. Scan the QR code for info.



# Tips for preparing for uni

## Year 10

### *Get ready for uni and start planning*

- **Start thinking about your goals.** Don't worry if you aren't sure what you want to do right now; you still have time to decide. Think about the subjects you like doing and what your interests are. Try making a list to help you visualise it.
- **Check course requirements and choose your senior subjects.** Once you have an idea of what you might like to study at uni, start checking prerequisites and recommended knowledge for those courses. This will help when selecting your Year 11 and 12 subjects.
- **Experience university life at JCU's Open Day.** Visit a JCU campus to discover your future.
- **Need some inspiration?** Check out our handy guide on page 3 for ideas on career paths.

## Year 11 and 12

### *You're on the home stretch now*

- **Start university subjects now and gain credit for later with JCU NOW.** Maximise your potential and start studying first year university subjects alongside high school subjects.
- **Get the inside scoop on the career of your dreams with the JCU HEROES Programs.** Experience a day in the life of your future career and see the heroes in action.
- **Secure your place at uni while in Year 12 through the Early Offer Program.** Finish your studies knowing you have a place in your dream course.
- **Haven't quite got what you need for your dream course?** No need to worry, there are plenty of pathway programs available to help you achieve your goals.



## How is university different?

### *High School*

*Start and finish at the same time from Monday to Friday.*

*Learn in the classroom*

*Teacher-directed study in a schedule that is determined for you.*

*Learning is split up over four terms.*

### *University*

*Classes may only be a few times a week at various times throughout the day.*

*Experience a variety of class types in a variety of locations, e.g. lecture theatres, tutorials, labs, field work.*

*Self-directed study based on your schedule and what you want to achieve.*

*Learning is split up over two semesters or three trimesters depending on your course.*





JCU Ideas Lab, JCU Cairns, Nguma-bada campus, Smithfield

## JCU NOW



**11 12** Years 11 and 12  Uni advancement  
   Online, JCU Townsville and Cairns

*Do you want to get a taste for uni life, save money and have the opportunity to gain credit for a degree?*



JCU NOW is for high achieving Year 11 and Year 12 students who want to be ready today for tomorrow. By studying JCU subjects now, you could gain credit for a JCU bachelor's degree, meaning you'll have fewer subjects to complete in your chosen degree.

Your first JCU NOW subject is free and extra subjects are discounted, saving you money on the cost of your degree. Successfully completed JCU NOW subjects may contribute to your QCE (each subject could give you two credit points).

For more information, visit [jcu.edu.au/jcunow](http://jcu.edu.au/jcunow)

## JCU Prep



 Pathway to uni entry, available after finishing Year 12  
 Online

*Want to go to uni, but don't have the qualifications you need?*

Whether you finish school without an ATAR, are missing prerequisite subjects, or you don't finish high school, JCU Prep will help you achieve your study goals. This flexible university pathway program can be tailored around you, so you will only study the subjects you need to build your skills and meet the entry requirements of your chosen degree.

For more information, visit [jcu.edu.au/jcu-prep](http://jcu.edu.au/jcu-prep)



## Book a JCU Campus Tour

*We'd love to show you around. Visit our facilities and get insight into uni life by talking to current JCU students.*



For more details and to book your tour, scan the QR code.





Central Plaza, JCU Townsville, Bebegu Yumba campus, Douglas

## JCU HEROES Programs



Years 11 and 12



Uni experience



JCU Townsville, Cairns, Mackay, Rockhampton,  
Mount Isa, Brisbane

*Get a sneak peek at your dream career.*

JCU HEROES Programs give you behind the scenes access into what your dream career may look like in Health, Sport, Science or Business. JCU works with our industry partners including the Mater Hospital, Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service, North West Hospital and Health Service, Queensland Country Bank and the North Queensland Cowboys to give you a chance to meet the experts and experience a day in their lives.

For more information, visit [jcu.edu.au/jcu-heroes-programs](http://jcu.edu.au/jcu-heroes-programs)



*Get a sneak peek of what it's really like to be in a healthcare career.  
JCU Heroes in Health.*

## Early Offer Program



12 Year 12



Uni advancement

*Secure your place at JCU while in Year 12.*

When you're in Year 12, you may be able to receive an early offer for a course prior to ATAR results being released. Talk to your school Guidance Officer/Careers Advisor about your intent to study at JCU and that you'd like to be considered for the Early Offer Program. They can assist you with completion of the Nomination Form to provide to your school for consideration.

Your school will then submit a recommendation based on your academic performance, motivation, talents, passion and capabilities to demonstrate your likelihood of success at university. You will also need to list JCU as your first preference when QTAC applications open.

For more information, visit [jcu.edu.au/year-12/early-offer](http://jcu.edu.au/year-12/early-offer)



*JCU Heroes in Sport.*



# 2025 OPEN DAY

TOWNSVILLE • SATURDAY 19 JULY 2025  
CAIRNS • FRIDAY 25 JULY 2025

Scan the QR code for more information and to register



jcu.edu.au





# Uni terms - what are we saying?

*You've probably heard some uni jargon that doesn't mean much to you yet. Here's a quick guide to help you make sense of it all.*

**ATAR:** The Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank, which provides a national comparative ranking of a student's academic performance in Year 12 relative to others graduating in the same year.

**ASSUMED KNOWLEDGE:** A minimum level of knowledge that you are assumed to have in a particular subject area prior to commencing.

**BACHELOR'S DEGREE:** An undergraduate academic qualification, typically requiring three to five years of full-time study or part-time equivalent.

**CREDIT POINT:** A basic measure of study load for each subject, with most subjects at JCU carrying a unit value of three credit points. A typical full-time study load for one academic year is 24 credit points (8 subjects), while part-time is generally no more than 75 percent of a full-time study load.

**EARLY OFFERS:** A program to help you secure a place to study at JCU before you finish Year 12, based on your school's recommendation and assessment of your academic performance, motivation and capabilities. You would still need to complete Year 12 and meet entry requirements for your chosen course of study.

**GENERAL SUBJECT:** An academic subject undertaken in secondary school, which can be counted towards an ATAR. Prerequisite subjects for a University course are often general subjects.

**GUARANTEED ADMISSIONS PLAN:** Students with an ATAR of 90 and above are guaranteed entry into particular JCU courses with all subject prerequisites waived. Those with an ATAR of 73 and above are guaranteed entry to these courses if all subject prerequisites are met.

**MAJOR:** A primary area of specialisation within a Bachelor's degree, including around eight related subjects in a particular discipline.

**MINOR:** A sub-specialisation in a Bachelor's degree, including four related subjects in an area of study.

**PREFERENCES:** You can select up to six undergraduate degrees you'd most like to apply and be accepted for. First and second on your list would be the degrees you'd most like to study, followed by other options you're interested in as third and fourth. Your choices for five and six would be courses you are willing to study as a back-up and are confident you'll receive an offer for. You'll only be eligible for an Early Offer on JCU courses you nominate

as your first preference. You can add, delete, or change the order of your preferences online via your tertiary admission centre.

**PREREQUISITE:** A high school or university subject that you must complete before starting your degree or taking a higher-level university subject.

**QTAC:** The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) operates a centralised tertiary application service. It assesses applications against entry requirements provided by JCU and then makes offers to successful applicants during offer rounds.

**RECOMMENDED KNOWLEDGE:** While not essential, prior study in these areas may assist you to understand more about the topics in a course of study.

**SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** Some degrees require applicants to meet additional selection criteria or complete additional steps in the application process. This could be demonstrating prior study or industry experience, a supporting written application or a personal interview with JCU academic selectors.

**UNDERGRADUATE:** An academic program of study leading to a diploma, Bachelor's degree or Bachelor (Honours) degree.





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A teal background with white text and icons. The text is organized into three columns. The first column contains 'Useful links' in a large serif font, followed by 'School engagement' with the link 'jcu.edu.au/highschool', 'Discover JCU courses' with the link 'jcu.edu.au/studyareas', 'Year 12 Student Success Package' with the link 'jcu.edu.au/year-12', and 'Events' with the link 'jcu.edu.au/events'. The second column contains 'Study guides' with the link 'jcu.edu.au/publications', 'QTAC' with the link 'qtac.edu.au', and 'Scholarships' with the link 'jcu.edu.au/scholarships'. The third column contains 'Stay Social #jculife' followed by six circular icons for Facebook, X, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, and TikTok.








## Find out more

Please contact your School Guidance Officer or Careers Advisor for more information on these activities, or visit:

[jcu.edu.au/highschool](http://jcu.edu.au/highschool)



[jcu.edu.au](http://jcu.edu.au)

