

ANTHROPOLOGY CAREER SNAPSHOT



BOOST YOUR PROSPECTS



Explore your options and set career goals



Build your networks



Gain career relevant experience



Fine tune your job application skills



Show initiative, engage in extra-curricular activities and stand out

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

Anthropology

Anthropologists exist in many different roles across a number of diverse organisations. Career pathways are wide and varied.

In essence, anthropology is the study of cultural similarities and differences in a globalised world. It is uniquely placed to interpret a diverse range of contemporary social phenomena – from migration to religious fundamentalism, online communities and new social movements, contemporary indigenous cultural expression and identity politics, consumption and commodification, and many evolving forms of social relationships.

Source: [ANU school of Archaeology & Anthropology](#) (Retrieved August 2021)

Depending on the field of practice chosen, Anthropologists use their skills and experience in:

- Research and education
- Analysing consumer data and trends via user experience research (UX) / customer

experience (CX) interactions and design process

- Digital anthropology (techno-anthropology, digital ethnography, cyber-anthropology, virtual-anthropology)
- Quantitative research associated with online consumer interaction
- Wellbeing anthropology
- Forensic anthropology
- IT and design thinking (human-centred and society-based)
- Community planning
- Policy development, governance and politics
- Native title and Indigenous land claims.

Career Paths

Job titles may include:

- Anthropologist
- Anthropology Research Officer
- Heritage Consultant
- Cultural Heritage Advisor
- Cultural Heritage Officer
- Heritage Policy Officer
- Native Titles Agreement Officer
- Human-Centred Design Lead
- Research Officer
- Quantitative Researcher
- Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Coordinator

Jobs retrieved from [Seek December 2022](#). Some positions may require additional qualifications, training, and experience.

JCU Alumni (graduates) on LinkedIn

The James Cook University LinkedIn page provides information on positions held by JCU Anthropology graduates and their current and past job titles and employers.

Over 500 JCU alumni detail 'Anthropology' in their profile and the top fields of employment are:

- Research
- Education
- Operations
- Community and Social Services
- Consulting

Employers of JCU Anthropology alumni include:

- James Cook University
- Flinders University
- Charles Darwin University
- Trace Archaeology
- Terra Rosa Consulting

Retrieved [JCU LinkedIn](#) December 2022

Identify Job Opportunities

Researching job vacancy listings in your area of interest will give you an understanding of **opportunities** for anthropology graduates.

Online job boards

- [Seek](#)
- [LinkedIn Jobs](#)
- [JCU CareerHub](#)
- [Queensland Government Jobs](#)
- [Australian Public Service Jobs](#)

Research Employer Expectations

Researching job vacancy listings will also give you an understanding of common and **employer expectations**.

It is important you work towards gaining the **skills, attributes, knowledge and experience** you identify as in demand to ensure you are competitive when entering the graduate labour market.

Professional Associations

Students are encouraged to investigate Professional Associations relevant to the discipline of Anthropology and to consider student membership.

Membership in a professional organisation is a clear signal to employers about commitment to your area of interest and involvement with your profession.

The benefits of membership include access to industry news, job vacancies, networking opportunities, conferences and other professional development opportunities (domestic and international).



The following Professional Associations are worth investigating:

- [Australian Anthropological Society](#)
- [World Council of Anthropological Associations](#)
- [Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies](#)

Career Relevant Experience

Gaining career relevant experience whilst studying can improve students' job prospects and confidence. Students are able to apply and develop their knowledge and skills, provide evidence of experience, grow their professional networks and gain greater awareness of workplace policies and procedures.

An **industry placement** is an option in the BA final year capstone subject -- [BA3000 Arts Edge](#). It is a strongly recommended option to pursue.

To gain a competitive edge, BA students may seek to undertake **additional** paid or unpaid internships or work experience during their studies. A growing number of internships and other workplace experiences are now **offered virtually**.

Internships are competitive and applicants need to demonstrate high levels of initiative and competence.

Internships, vacation work, cadetships and other work experience opportunities are advertised on employer websites and social media sites, online job boards and Graduate Directories.

To start, check:

- [GradConnection](#)
- [GradAustralia](#)
- [Queensland Government](#)

Volunteer Work

Volunteering is a great way to form professional networks, develop work skills and stand out from the crowd. Many employers value evidence of volunteer work.

Volunteering enables students to experience different work environments plus demonstrate their values and the causes they care about. Students are recommended to consider:

- Volunteering for opportunities presented through their degree
- Becoming a [JCU Student Mentor](#)
- Becoming involved in community organisations, particularly in areas related to Anthropology.

Check the following organisations for opportunities:

- [Cairns Museum](#)
- [Museum of Tropical Queensland](#)
- [Townsville Museum and Historical Society](#)
- [Perc Tucker Gallery](#)
- [Townsville Aboriginal and Island Health Services TAIHS](#)
- [Cairns Art Gallery](#)
- [Amnesty International](#)
- [Townsville Community Directory - volunteering](#)
- [Cairns Community Directory - volunteering](#)
- [State Library of Queensland Digital Volunteers](#)

Further Study Options

Honours

An Honours year is available to high-achieving BA Anthropology major students. It consists of extra study and the development of a personal research project and thesis.

An Honours degree enables you to explore a topic in greater depth and demonstrates to employers, academic achievement and advanced research and writing skills. It is usually essential for entry into Higher Degrees by Research.

Visit the [Bachelor of Arts handbook](#) for eligibility information.

Postgraduate Coursework

The Bachelor of Arts lays the foundation for many professions which can be accessed via postgraduate coursework study.

Visit [JCU Postgraduate courses](#) for availability and further course details.

Postgraduate Research

Graduates interested in a career in **research and/or academia** generally undertake an Honours year in the field of study in which the graduate has majored.

This is typically followed by further graduate research study, either Masters or PhD. Higher Degrees by Research comprise of a program of supervised original research in a chosen discipline.

Completing a JCU Higher Degree by Research will give you an internationally recognised research qualification and advanced transferable skills.

Visit

<https://research.jcu.edu.au/portfolio/find-an-advisor> for information on research interests of JCU staff and Higher Degree by Research advisors.

Graduate Programs

While the majority of graduates will find employment with small or medium size employers (SMEs), a number of BA graduates will gain entry into **Graduate Programs** offered by large organisations and government departments.

Graduate programs are **structured professional development positions** offered to recent graduates. Successful applicants are provided on the job training, mentoring and professional development within the organization.

Many larger organisations will run several different graduate programs in different parts of their business. It's worth keeping an open mind; the core business of an organisation may not appear to have relevance to anthropology however UX or CX research may make up a component of an organisation's portfolio, for example, or organisations may require research/analysis into people, community, policy, native title, etc.

NOTE: Organisations generally **recruit students through their final year of study** for commencement in the following year. Applications often open as early as March, so be actively researching opportunities from the beginning of your

Graduate programs are **advertised** through employers' own websites and social media channels (e.g. [Australian, Queensland](#) and other state government graduate portals). Also, through the graduate recruitment sites

- [GradAustralia](#),
- [GradConnection](#)