

DENTAL SURGERY CAREER SNAPSHOT



BOOST YOUR PROSPECTS



Explore your options, clarify your career goals



Gain course relevant experience



Fine tune your job application skills



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



Build your networks

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

Graduate Opportunities

The **JCU Bachelor of Dental Surgery** is a five-year undergraduate degree that provides students with the knowledge and skills required to become competent and confident practitioners of dentistry.

Dental Practitioners diagnose and treat oral diseases, injuries and abnormalities of jaws, teeth and gums, undertake preventive procedures, conduct surgery and perform other specialist techniques and advise on oral health.

With further study Dental Practitioners may specialize in Paediatrics, Oral / Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontistry, Periodontistry, Prosthodontistry, Public Health and Special Needs.

JCU Bachelor of Dental Surgery graduates are working in private practice, state-operated dental health services, and in teaching and research.

Employers include:

- Queensland Health
- Tasmanian Oral Health Service
- ACT Dental Health
- Northern Territory Oral Health
- NSW Health
- Australian Defence Force
- Multiple corporate or private dental practices

JCU Alumni Career Paths

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

The [Graduate Outcomes Survey 2019-2021](#) reported the following findings.

	James Cook University	National Average
Full-time employment	95.7% 70 responses	83.6%
Overall employment	98.8% 81 responses	92.8%
Full-time study	6.8% 74 responses	11.3%
Median graduate income (one year out)	\$100,000 62 responses	\$78,300

Retrieved [ComparED](#), 19 December 2022

JCU Alumni(graduates) on LinkedIn

452 JCU alumni have listed **Dentistry** within their [LinkedIn profile](#). (Retrieved 19 December 2022)

Investigate the Dentistry alumni listed on the [James Cook University LinkedIn](#) site to identify their:

- Career pathways
- Current and past employers

Registration

The JCU Bachelor of Dental Surgery is accredited by the [Australian Dental Council \(ADC\)](#).

Graduates are eligible for professional registration with dental boards in Australia and New Zealand and are able to enter dental practice.

Students enrolled in the degree are registered with the [Dental Board of Australia](#) through the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) for the duration of their study or until they are no longer enrolled. (Source: [JCU Bachelor of Dental Surgery](#) retrieved 19 December 2022)

Dental Surgery students are strongly recommended to be knowledgeable of the requirements for registration with the [Dental Board of Australia](#).

Job Opportunities

Online job boards, graduate directories, employer websites and employer Facebook pages, LinkedIn accounts and twitter feeds all provide information on the **range of positions available** to Bachelor of Dental Surgery students and graduates.

Job vacancy listings will also give you an understanding of **employer expectations for various positions**.

Students can work towards **filling skills, knowledge or experience gaps** identified to ensure they are competitive when entering the graduate labour market.

Online Job Boards

- [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](#)
- [CareerOne](#)
- [Smart Jobs Queensland Government](#)
- [APS Jobs Australian Public Service recruitment](#)

Graduate Recruitment Sites

- [GradAustralia](#)
- [GradConnection](#)
- [Queensland Government Graduate Portal](#)
- [Australian Government Graduate Programs](#)

facebook

- Young Dentist Hub
- Dental Practice Management
- Check employers' Facebook pages

LinkedIn

Check if employers have a LinkedIn page. Many post jobs on these pages plus provide information on current topics of interest for dental professionals. E.g.,

- [Queensland Health](#)

Develop your own personal LinkedIn profile to ensure you maintain a professional online presence.

Professional Associations

Develop your professional networks.



The [Australian Dental Association](#) is the peak national body for dental professionals in

Australia. It is free to join the ADA while you are a student at university.

Student membership is an ideal way to gain valuable insight into your future profession, explore opportunities, demonstrate interest and meet people in your field who can support you in developing your career.

Student members have full access to all resources the ADA offer, including the CPD Portal, Australian Dental Journal, Dental Graduate Handbook and a selection of clinical resources,

plus reduced rates for attendance at the Australian Dental Congress.

[JCU Dental Student Association](#)

Join JCUDSA to demonstrate commitment and involvement with your profession.

Clinical Experience

Gaining experience before you graduate is essential as employers want evidence of the application of your skills and knowledge in practice.

The JCU Bachelor of Dental Surgery places a strong emphasis on **professional practice experience and skill development**. Maximise every opportunity presented in your degree to develop your skills, knowledge and expertise.

In addition to your Clinical Placements, it is recommended you actively **seek further dental health related experience** to expand your professional networks and further demonstrate commitment to your future profession.

Volunteering

Volunteering is an opportunity to give to the community, grow your professional and community networks and demonstrate extra commitment to future employers and clients.

Many employers, particularly the government health services value evidence of volunteer work.

Networks, including those created through volunteer activities will be valuable sources of business for your practice in years to come.

- Volunteer for extra activities and opportunities presented through your degree and clinical placements.
- Join [Rural Health in the Northern Outback](#) (Club RHINO) – the student health network for students interested in improving health outcomes for rural and remote Australians.
- The [Australian Dental Association](#) lists volunteer opportunities and projects for Dentistry students in Australia and overseas.
- Become a [Student Mentor](#).

- Become involved in a local group – think hobbies, interests, volunteer organisations, charities, sporting clubs, service clubs etc.

Community volunteering opportunities are advertised through:

- [FNQ Volunteers](#)
- [Volunteering North Queensland](#)
- [Townsville Community Directory](#)
- [Cairns Community Directory](#)

Professional Development

Participate in professional development opportunities presented through your university studies and clinical placements to gain extra knowledge and skills and demonstrate commitment to ongoing learning in your profession.

Attend as many JCU Dentistry **Continuing Professional Development** lectures as possible. Keep a record of your attendance for use in graduate job applications.

Access the **CPD Portal** on the **Australian Dental Association** website for professional development opportunities.

Attend relevant **Australian Dental Association** conferences, conventions and other events.