

# ARTS CAREER SNAPSHOT



## BOOST YOUR EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS



Explore your options, clarify your career goals



Build your networks



Gain course 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](#)

## Graduate Opportunities

Employment options for JCU Bachelor of Arts (BA) graduates are many and varied. A key strength of BA graduates is their diversity, flexibility, and adaptability in the labour market.

A BA equips you with **discipline specific knowledge and skills** to enable you to take on roles such as anthropologist, archaeologist, policy advisor, criminologist, community development officer or historian.

The BA also equips you with **transferrable workplace skills** in research, critical thinking, analytical problem solving and written and oral communication. These information processing skills can be **applied across various careers and industries** and are highly valued by employers.

Employers, including government departments, banks and other large organisations and startup and innovation precincts recruit for these transferrable skills and then train graduates in industry-specific skills when on the job.

The generalist roles BA graduates are often employed in include policy development, project management, administration, and coordination.

### Employers

BA graduates are employed in a wide range of industries including state and federal government departments, regional councils, non-government organisations (NGOs), education and applied research, consulting and strategy, media and communications, health and community services, and arts and culture.

## JCU Alumni Career Paths

Over 7000 JCU alumni (graduates) have listed 'Arts' within their **LinkedIn profile**. The top five fields of employment listed by JCU BA alumni on LinkedIn are:

- Education
- Business Development
- Operations
- Community and Social Services
- Arts and Design

The most frequent employers listed are:

- James Cook University
- Queensland Department of Education
- Queensland Health
- The University of Queensland
- Townsville City Council

Investigate the alumni listed on the [James Cook University LinkedIn](#) page to identify career pathways, including job titles and current and past employers of JCU BA graduates.

## Identify Job Opportunities

Identifying a career direction can be a challenge for BA graduates.

Vacancies listed on online job boards, graduate recruitment sites, employer websites and employer social media platforms such as Facebook and LinkedIn, provide information on the **range of positions and industries available** to BA graduates and employer expectations.

Many employers do not mention a specific major or degree required but define the work by a skill set rather than qualification.

It is recommended that you work towards filling the **skills, knowledge and experience expectations** identified in your research, to ensure you are competitive when entering the graduate labour market.

### Online Job Boards include:

- [Seek](#)
- [LinkedIn Jobs](#)
- [JCU CareerHub](#)
- [CareerOne](#)
- [Smart jobs Queensland Jobs](#)
- [APSJobs Australian Public Service recruitment](#)

### Graduate Recruitment sites

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

## Further Study Options

### Honours

A Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree is available for high-achieving 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 research higher degrees.

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

### Postgraduate Coursework

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

BA graduates may choose to enter professions such as accounting, teaching, and social work via further graduate coursework study.



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

### Postgraduate Research

Graduates interested in a career in **research, academia or developing higher level skills and knowledge** may undertake an Honours year in the field of study in which they have 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 [JCU Research Portfolio](#) for information on research interests of JCU staff and higher degree by research advisors.

## Career Relevant Experience

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

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

To gain a competitive edge, BA students are encouraged to undertake additional paid or unpaid **internships** or **career relevant work experience**.

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

Internship opportunities are advertised on employer websites and social media sites, online job boards and Graduate Recruitment sites.

## Volunteering

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

Opportunities are advertised through:

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

## Professional Associations and Industry Bodies

Students are encouraged to investigate [Professional Associations](#) relevant to their major and explore potential student membership.

Benefits included access to latest developments and opportunities within their future industry area, professional development, and networking opportunities.

Associations linked to your major include:

### Anthropology

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

### Archeology

- [Australian Archeological Association](#)

### Criminology

- [Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology](#)

### Design and Creative Arts

- [National Association for the Visual Arts](#)
- [Australian Council for the Arts](#)

### English

- [Australian Society of Authors](#)

### History

- [The Australian Historical Association](#)
- [Professional Historians Australia](#)

### Human Geography

- [The Institute of Australian Geographers](#)
- [The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland](#)

### Human Services

- [Australian Community Workers Association](#)

### Indigenous Studies

- [Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies](#)
- [Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance](#)

### Politics and International Relations

- [Australian Political Studies Association](#)

### Psychology Studies

- [Australian Community Workers Association](#)

### Sociology

- [The Australian Sociological Association](#)

## Graduate Programs

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

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

Students apply for graduate programs during **their final year of study** for commencement of employment in the following year.

Graduate programs are highly competitive so it is important to understand what is expected so that you can work towards ensuring you have the skills, knowledge and experience required.

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