

COMMERCE 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 Commerce](#) graduates are many and varied. Career paths depend on the majors a student specialises in.

Majors include Accounting, Banking and Finance, Economics, Financial Advising, Financial Management, and International Trade.

Depending on your chosen major(s), potential careers * could include:

- Business manager
- Commercial and taxation law specialist
- Corporate financial manager
- Data analyst
- Economist
- Expert consultant
- Financial analyst
- Financial controller
- Foreign exchange trader
- Investment banker/manager
- Risk manager
- Stockbroker

*Certain occupations may require additional studies and experience.

Source: [B Commerce handbook](#) 12 December 2022.

Accountant



Average age
38 years



Future Growth
Moderate



Gender Share
52% female



Average full-time
43 hours



Weekly Pay
\$1,660



Skill level rating
Very high skill



Unemployment
Lower unemployment



Full-Time Share
80% Full-Time



Employment Size
199,200 workers

Economist



Average age
37 years



Future Growth
Moderate



Gender Share
33% female



Average full-time
44 hours



Weekly Pay
Unavailable



Skill level rating
Very high skill



Unemployment
Lower unemployment



Full-Time Share
84% Full-Time



Employment Size
6,300 workers

Source: [The Good Universities Guide](#)
February 2023

Identifying Opportunities

Researching job vacancy listings in your interest area will give you an understanding of **opportunities available with your degree 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.

Online Job Boards

- [SEEK](#)
- [JCU CareerHub](#)
- [LinkedIn Jobs](#)
- [Australian Job Search](#)
- [Queensland Government Jobs](#)

Graduate Recruitment Sites

The following sites provide information on graduate jobs, graduate programs, internships, cadetships and vacation work.

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

LinkedIn Career Path Data

The [James Cook University LinkedIn page](#) provides information on over 1,800 JCU alumni (graduates) who have listed 'Commerce' within their resume style **LinkedIn profile**. You can drill down to alumni with **your major**. Investigate their LinkedIn profiles to identify their career paths following completion of their studies, including job titles and current and past employers.

Finally, **connect with employers directly** to identify possibilities of undergraduate and graduate employment.



Professional Development Certificate

Employers will look at your education, work history and involvement in activities both in and outside of university to determine whether you are the right candidate for the job and the organization. To stand out, **be proactive** and actively engage in extra-curricular activities.

To gain a competitive edge, employability-related activities and initiatives are embedded within, and alongside, your degree. All JCU Bachelor of Commerce students, have the opportunity to complete the **Professional Development Certificate (PDC)**.

The **PDC** involves the voluntary completion of a sequence of non-accredited extra-curricular activities such as volunteering, attending networking events and developing a LinkedIn profile. All activities are designed to enhance the skills and competencies that are highly valued by prospective employers.

Course Relevant Work Experience

Employers value evidence of relevant experience and often prefer to recruit someone they know, have seen perform or has been strongly recommended.

Prioritize gaining as much career relevant experience as is possible.

As part of your degree, you will have the opportunity to complete a final year **Work Integrated Learning (WIL)** experience through either an **internship, group industry project or work-based project**.

This is an opportunity to gain relevant work experience, put theory into practice and reinforce your academic learning while developing essential employability skills.

Other course relevant experiences include:

Vacation Programs are generally offered to students in the penultimate (second) year of their degree, can lead to graduate employment with the organisation. Check with your College if you are able to undertake a vacation program as your internship for your core WIL experience.

Cadetships enable students to work part or full time with an employer while completing their studies.

Opportunities are posted on:

- Employer websites and social media accounts e.g., LinkedIn
- Online job boards e.g., [CareerHub](#)
- Graduate recruitment sites: [GradAustralia](#), [GradConnection](#)

Volunteering

Volunteering in a career relevant field also provides an opportunity to give to the community, develop relevant work skills and network.

Volunteer opportunities can be found on:

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

Professional Associations Industry Bodies

Students are encouraged to investigate Professional Associations or Industry Bodies relevant to their major to clarify qualifications required for membership and gain a greater awareness of developments and opportunities within their future industry area.

Student membership with a Professional Association or Industry Body is an activity within the Professional Development Certificate and is an ideal way to gain valuable insight into your future profession, develop skills, demonstrate interest, and meet people in your field who can support you in developing your career.

Examples of Associations and Industry Bodies to explore:

- [Business Council of Australia](#)
- [Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#)

Accounting

- [Certified Practising Accountants Australia \(CPA\)](#)
- [Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand \(CAANZ\)](#)
- [Institute of Public Accountants](#)

Banking and Finance

- [Australian Banking Association](#)
- [Australian Finance Industry Association](#)

Economics

- [The Economic Society of Australia](#)

Financial Advising

- [Association of Financial Advisers](#)

Financial management

- [Australian Finance Industry Association AFIA](#)
- [Financial Management Association of Australia FMAA](#)

International Trade

- [Australian International Trade Association](#)

Graduate Positions vs Graduate Programs

Graduate programs

Graduate programs are paid structured professional development positions offered by large organisations and government departments to recent graduates. Participants are offered on the job training and mentoring.

Organisations recruit students throughout **their final year of study** for commencement in the following year. Applications open as early as March.

Graduate programs are advertised through employers' websites and social media sites, job boards and the graduate recruitment directories - [GradAustralia](#) and [GradConnection](#).

Graduate positions

Employers, particularly small to medium sized organisations, may not offer formal graduate programs and will recruit when a position arises. Identify organisations of interest and familiarise yourself with their recruitment practices.

Starting a Business

If you are interested in establishing your own business venture, the Australian and State governments have grants, programs and other forms of support to help business to innovate, compete and grow.

- [Australian Government New Business Assistance](#)
- [Australian Government Entrepreneurs' Programme](#)
- [QLD Government Starting a Business](#)
- [Social Enterprise Grants Program](#)