

LAW 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 – build your career now](#)

Graduate Opportunities

JCU Law graduates are highly valued by the profession in our region, across Australia, and overseas.

Opportunities for employment of JCU Law graduates exist in a wide variety of areas. Common areas of legal practice include business and commercial law, environmental law, property law, criminal law, taxation law, corporate law, bankruptcy and insolvency, wills and estates, intellectual property law, anti-discrimination law, and family law.

In addition to traditional legal practice, there are many legal and quasi-legal roles in government, not-for-profit organisations, industry and business. In many of those roles, graduates are not required to be admitted as a lawyer or hold a practising certificate. It is the broad range of skills law graduates possess that is attractive to employers.

Students can build employability by studying a joint degree including Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Laws

and Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Laws. The knowledge, skills and additional qualifications gained through completion of a joint degree offers increased graduate opportunities and access to alternative professions.

LinkedIn Career Path Data

JCU Alumni (graduates) on LinkedIn

Over 4,000 JCU alumni have listed 'law' within their **LinkedIn profile**.

Investigate their resume style profiles to identify their career pathways following completion of their studies, including job titles and current and past employers.

N.B. You will need to register on LinkedIn to access this information.

The top five employers of JCU Law graduates listed on LinkedIn are:

- JCU
- QLD Police Service
- QLD Health
- Australian Taxation Office
- Queensland Government

In addition to legal positions, the top fields JCU Law graduates are employed in are business development; operations; education; and community and social services.

Source: [James Cook University LinkedIn](#) February 2023.

Further Career, Salary, and Market Information

- [Mahlab Specialists in legal search](#)
- [GradAustralia Careers outside of law](#)
- [RRR Law – rewarding legal careers in rural, regional and remote Australia](#)
- [The College of Law - Career options for lawyers](#)

Accreditation and Specialisations

Graduates of the JCU Bachelor of Laws satisfy the **academic requirements** for admission to practice law in Queensland and through the mutual recognition process, in all Australian states and territories.

Completing your Law degree is the **first step** towards being admitted as a legal practitioner.

Solicitors

Specialise in areas such as property, probate, workers compensation, family law, personal injuries litigation, commercial law, or criminal law. Solicitors may work in private legal practices or in state, territory or federal government departments, in community law centres, not-for-profit organisations or within business corporations.

How to Become a Solicitor

To practice as a solicitor in Queensland requires four steps:

1. Completion of an **approved law degree**
2. Completion of an approved **practical legal training (PLT)** course or a **supervised traineeship**
3. Application for admission to the **Roll of Lawyers**
4. Application for a **practising certificate** – this certificate is required to practise law in Queensland.

Further information is available at [Queensland Law Society](#) Retrieved February 2023.

Barristers

Are qualified lawyers who advise and represent individuals, businesses, and government agencies on complex legal issues and disputes. They specialise in courtroom advocacy and litigation and provide legal advice and draft documents in complex matters. Generally, the barrister is briefed by the solicitor who instructs the barrister on behalf of the client.

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

How to Become a Barrister

The first step is to complete a recognised law degree, followed by practical legal training or a supervised traineeship. Once admitted as a lawyer, you are then required to obtain a barrister's practising certificate in

Queensland. This involves sitting the Bar Exams and completing the Bar Practice Course.

Further information is available at the [Bar Association of Queensland](#) (Retrieved February 2023)

Identifying Opportunities

Online job boards, graduate recruitment directories, employer websites, Facebook pages, LinkedIn accounts and twitter feeds provide information on the range of positions and industry areas available to law graduates.

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

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

Online Job Boards

- [SEEK](#)
- [Lawyers Weekly](#)
- [JCU CareerHub](#)
- [LinkedIn Jobs](#)
- [Social Justice Opportunities](#)
- [Legal Aid Queensland](#)
- [Australian Public Service recruitment](#)
- [Queensland Government Jobs](#)

Graduate Recruitment Sites

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

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

Professional Associations

JCU Law students are eligible for [student membership](#) with the Queensland Law Society

Student membership benefits include access to industry specific career information and advice, networks and professional development including conferences, seminars, and other events.

Workplace 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 Legal Placement.

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

Employers see **evidence of your ability to apply the skills and knowledge gained** through your study and you gain **valuable insight** into the type of job/field of employment you might enjoy.

It is recommended you actively seek additional law related work opportunities.

Other course relevant experiences include:

Vacation Programs and Internships 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
- 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.

Legal volunteer work opportunities are listed on:

- [Court Network](#)
- [Environmental Defender's Office of North Queensland](#)
- [Cairns Community Legal Centre](#)

- [Townsville Community Law](#)
- [Community Legal Centre Volunteers](#)
- [Women's Legal Service Qld](#)
- [FNQ Volunteers](#)
- [Volunteering North Queensland](#)

Graduate Programs vs Graduate Positions

Graduate Programs

Are paid structured professional development positions offered by large organisations or government departments to recent graduates. Successful applicants are offered on the job training and mentoring.

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

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.

Stand Out

Employers' value well rounded applicants.

Be proactive, get involved and stand out.

- Join [Inter Alia Cairns JCU Law Society](#), [JCU Law Students' Society Townsville](#)
- Follow [Far North Queensland Law Association FNQLA](#) or [North Queensland Law Association NQLA](#) Facebook pages for latest news and events.
- Undertake relevant professional development. Keep a record on your LinkedIn profile and resume.
- Develop an impressive LinkedIn profile, connect with professionals
- Compete in student law related [competitions and challenges](#) to develop skills and demonstrate initiative.