

# PHARMACY CAREER SNAPSHOT

## All Pharmacists



**Average age**  
34 years



**Future Growth**  
Moderate



**Gender Share**  
62% female



**Average full-time**  
43 hours



**Weekly Pay**  
\$1,862



**Skill level rating**  
Very high skill



**Unemployment**  
Lower unemployment



**Full-Time Share**  
68% Full-Time

Pharmacists supply, dispense and manufacture medicines and pharmaceutical products in hospitals and community pharmacies, and advise on their appropriate use. They also conduct research into the formulation, production, storage, quality control and distribution of medicines and pharmaceutical products.

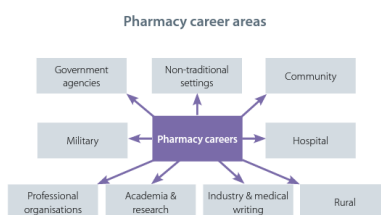
Source: [The Good Universities Guide](#) January 2023

Pharmacy is a rewarding career for those interested in working as part a multidisciplinary team of medical staff and allied health professionals that seek to provide optimal care for patients and carers.

Pharmacists are registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). To practice as a Pharmacist in Australia you must be [registered with the Pharmacy](#)

[Board of Australia](#) and keep meeting the obligations of the profession. As of July, 2022 there were circa 35,300 pharmacists registered with Pharmacy Board which comprises approximately 4.1% of all health practitioners registered in Australia recording 0.3% growth over previous year. [AHPRA Annual Report](#)

## Career Options for Pharmacists



### [Pharmacy Careers Guide](#)

While up to 75% of JCU Pharmacy students choose to work in community pharmacies, this course prepares you for a broad range of other exciting careers:

- Hospital pharmacy
- Complex Care Coordinator
- Consultant pharmacy
- Drug Development with start-ups or pharmaceutical companies
- Drug clinical trials
- Regulatory affairs
- Drug Safety Officer
- Life sciences researcher at research institutes: CSIRO
- Entrepreneur in healthcare
- Academic research and teaching
- Health policy with various levels of government and Non-Govt. Organisations
- Management consulting for health- and pharma industry
- Pharmacist professional organisations
- Science communications
- Medical writing



## BOOST YOUR PROSPECTS



Explore your options and set career goals



Build your networks



Gain experience



Fine tune your job search skills



Show initiative and stand out

Plan your time at the university - access the [Career Ready Plan](#)

## Employability Skills and Workplace Experience

Your course will equip you with the professional knowledge, skills and professional placement opportunities to help you meet the requirements of registration as a pharmacist. However, depending on the type of work you are thinking of, there are many experiences you can seek parallel to your course to prepare yourself for your career.

A part-time or casual job as a **Pharmacy Assistant** is by far the best experience and exposure to the industry and offers both mentorship and helps reinforce your learning in the workplace. You can gain both industry experience and employability skills and possibly secure future employment too as many employers use this as a way to observe you as a possible future employee.

The [Student Mentor Program](#) can provide evidence of soft skill development, communication skills, empathy and a caring nature which are all relevant skills needed for your future profession. You could take it a



step further by competing for the [Pharmacy Student of the Year \(PSOTY\)](#).

To develop your commercial awareness you could participate in the [National Student Business Plan Competition](#).

For networking, public speaking, project management or leadership skills you may like to consider joining and taking up administrative functions in the Pharmacy Students Association ( [JCUPSA Student Association's](#) ).

To boost your enterprising thinking and business knowledge check [LinkedIn Learning](#) e.g. Guy Kawasaki on Entrepreneurship; Small Business Secrets; Entrepreneurship Foundations; Design Thinking: Venture Design; Become an Entrepreneur Inside a Company etc.

These courses are available free of charge if you log in to LinkedIn Learning through the JCU Library's website - Learning tab using your JCU Student ID login. You will be able to display any completed courses on your LinkedIn profile for future employers to see.

For more information on Life Sciences entrepreneurship access [MedTech and Pharma Growth Centre's](#) (MTPConnect) website or [Advance Queensland](#), while [Women in Rural Regional and Remote Enterprises](#) (WiRE) program offers Virtual Business Women Bootcamp and other support.

## 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 health.

Check the following organisations for opportunities:

- [Brighter Lives at Townsville Hospital](#).
- [FNQ Volunteers](#)
- [Volunteering North Queensland](#)
- [Townsville Community Directory - volunteering](#)
- [Cairns Community Directory - volunteering](#)
- [Volunteering QLD](#)
- [Australian Youth Mentoring Network](#)

## Identifying Opportunities

Studying and volunteering overseas and attending careers industry engagement events are effective ways to develop professional networks and your understanding of the global labour market particularly if you are open to considering a career in areas other than community pharmacy.

- [JCU Study Abroad](#)
- [Big Meet Brisbane \(March\)](#)

Start researching jobs early and bookmarking established companies and life science startups of interest for internships, graduate programs and junior pharmacy jobs through the following websites:

- [JCU Careerhub](#)
- [Queensland Govt Smart Jobs](#)
- [Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Job Board](#)
- [SHPA Job Board](#)
- [Dept. of Health and Aged Care](#)
- [Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Intern Program](#)
- [Seek vacancies](#)
- [Glassdoor](#)
- [GradConnection](#)
- [GradAustralia](#)
- [Queensland Government Graduate Portal](#)
- [Australian Job Search](#)
- [Australian Public Service](#)
- [LocumCo](#)
- [Life Sciences QLD Directory](#)
- [BioMelbourne Directory](#)
- [BioPharmGuy: Directory](#)
- [MedicalStartups: Directory](#)

Job and internship opportunities are frequently posted on employer websites (eg., [AstraZeneca](#), [Takeda](#), [GSK](#), [Pfizer](#), [Johnson&Johnson](#), [Sanofi](#), [Novartis](#)), LinkedIn, Facebook

pages, twitter feeds, via your College emails, CareerHub and Facebook posts.

## Graduate Positions vs Graduate Programs

Large pharmaceutical companies recruit graduates usually once a year for a structured training program. Tap into [Glassdoor](#) and [Whirlpool Forum](#) to find out about the recruitment processes.

Smaller organisations including startups may have openings at any stage and may also be responsive to "speculative applications" (sending in a resume and cover letter that shows how well your interests, skills, experience and knowledge fit with the company's agenda and values).

## Professional Associations

You can demonstrate your commitment to the profession, enrich your education (through conferences, PD and career development courses) and enhance your job search through networking events within a free or discounted student membership of a professional organisation:

- [JCU Pharmacy Students Association](#)
- [National Australian Pharmacy Students Association](#)
- [International Pharmaceutical Students Association](#)
- [Pharmaceutical Society of Australia](#)
- [Professional Pharmacists Australia](#)
- [Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia \(SHPA\)](#)
- [Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy](#)
- [Pharmacy Guild of Australia](#)
- [Australian Pharmacy Council](#)
- [Pharmacy Board of Australia](#)
- [Medicines Australia](#)
- [Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association](#)
- [Association of Regulatory and Clinical Scientists to the Australian Pharmaceutical Industry](#)
- [Australian Pharmaceutical Professionals Australia](#)
- [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#)