

JCU Future Students Career/Course Decision Making



Throughout our lives we all face times when we must make decisions about our next career move. At times, our next career step may be straight forward and easy to navigate and at other times it may be confusing and overwhelming.

An effective strategy is to break your decision making down into four key steps.

TIP This resource, with hyperlinks, is available at <https://www.jcu.edu.au/careers/information-sheets>



[Course Seeker](#) provides information on thousands of on-campus and online undergraduate courses across Australia.

[QTAC](#) Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre or other [Interstate Tertiary Admission Centres](#) provide information on all tertiary courses within the relevant states and territories.

[The Good Universities Guide](#) provides information on courses available at Australian universities, TAFE, and private training colleges.

Course experience and outcomes

[ComparED](#) provides information on graduate employment outcomes, median starting salaries and ratings of teaching practices, resources, and support services, by institution and study area.

[LinkedIn](#) allows registered members to view the careers paths of graduates in your fields of interest. Check the **Alumni** (graduate students) section on the LinkedIn page of your university of interest (e.g. [James Cook University LinkedIn](#)) to research the career paths of graduates. Registration on LinkedIn is free.

Cost and financial assistance

[JCU Fees and Financial Support](#) provides information on fees and how to pay or defer them.

[Study Assist](#) provides information on government assistance for financing tertiary study.

Step 3. Narrow and test your ideas

Explore these ideas in more detail by:

Reading the course information of degrees of interest. In particular, the course overview and subject descriptions. You need to be clear on what is covered in the differing courses to ensure the content plays to your interests and strengths.

Talking to people already working in the career or studying the course you are considering.

Undertaking a short course such as a MOOC to trial an academic area in a non-threatening way before you commit to university study. A useful resource is [Class Central](#).

Gaining experience or observing the career you are interested in through work experience, job shadowing or volunteering.

Step 4