

Careers Newsletter

October, 2017

Thinking About Job Trends

Inside This Issue

1 The Jobs Landscape

Job with a Difference

2 Focus on Psychology

3 QTAC Checklist

Transferable Skills

The **Australian Jobs 2017** report from the Australian Government Department of Employment gives a summary of employment trends in Australia. It has important messages about career and study planning for young Australians. The report describes the challenges faced by young people in getting a job. Even though youth unemployment fell marginally in 2016, the rate of 12.3% for January 2017, is well above the 8/8% of 2008.



Qualifications and Experience Matter

Study and training after Year 10 link to better employment prospects – the higher the level of study, the higher the chance of participation in employment across adult life:

Bachelor degree	86.9%
Diploma	84.4%
Certificate III or IV	85.3%
Year 12 or equivalent	76.2%
Year 11	66.6%
Year 10	55.7

This means that there are real gains to be made from taking up study or training options after Year 10 – and highlights the value of VET qualifications alongside academic choices. The report also showed that workers with higher qualifications are likely to earn higher incomes.

Employers are increasingly looking for experienced workers – more than half of the employers were requiring some level of experience when advertising for positions. This may mean that young people's part time work and volunteering choices could be an important aspect of their future career planning.

Where are the jobs?

The report listed the following as the largest employing industries: health care and social assistance; retail trade; construction; and professional, scientific and technical services. Industries which have created the largest numbers of new jobs were: health care and social services; professional, scientific and technical services; education and training; and accommodation and food services.

[Australian Jobs 2017](#) link to full report



"Don't become a mere recorder of facts, but try to penetrate the mystery of their origin."

Ivan Pavlov

A Job with a Difference!

Engineering Psychologist

We usually think of psychology as having to do with people – but engineering psychologists focus on machines and technology. They work with architects and designers of consumer products like telephones, cameras and home appliances to determine such features as the size and placement of operating buttons on the appliances. They also look at the design of tools and workplaces that are importance to performance and personal safety.



Focus on ... Psychology

What is Psychology?

Psychology is the study of behavior. Registered psychologists use scientific research and knowledge about human behavior to assist individuals who are experiencing mental disorders, relationship problems, learning difficulties, addiction and eating disorders.

How do you become a psychologist?

As shown in the diagram below, becoming a psychologist requires study and professional training over several years. In order to identify yourself as a "registered psychologist", you need to, first, complete a Bachelor degree in psychology which is recognized by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council, then a fourth (honours) year of study, followed by a combination of further postgraduate study and professional experience under the supervision of an accredited psychologist.

Areas of Psychology

The Australian Psychological Society which registers psychologists, identifies ten [areas of psychology](#).

General practising psychologists have broad skills and work in private practice, or as employees in areas such as health, education, business communication, public policy, legal, social or justice.

Clinical neuropsychologists assess, diagnose and treat psychological disorders associated with brain conditions, including neurological, medical and psychiatric conditions, developmental disorders and learning disabilities.

Organisational psychologists work within firms and government organisations to help enhance people's wellbeing and efficiency by improving their work environment.



Sport and exercise psychologists use their knowledge of the psychological factors that influence sport, exercise and performance to assist individuals to improve their sports results and performance. They may work in private practice, or in elite academies or institutes of sport, or sporting teams.

What psychology courses can I do?

There are a range of bachelor degrees in psychology available in Queensland. It is important to check that any course you undertake meets accreditation requirements if you are planning to register as a psychologist.

[Bachelor of Behavioural Science \(Psychology\)](#) – QUT

[Bachelor of Behavioural Science](#) – Griffith University,

[Bachelor of Psychological Science](#) – Australian Catholic University

[Bachelor of Psychological Science \(Honours\)](#) – University of Queensland

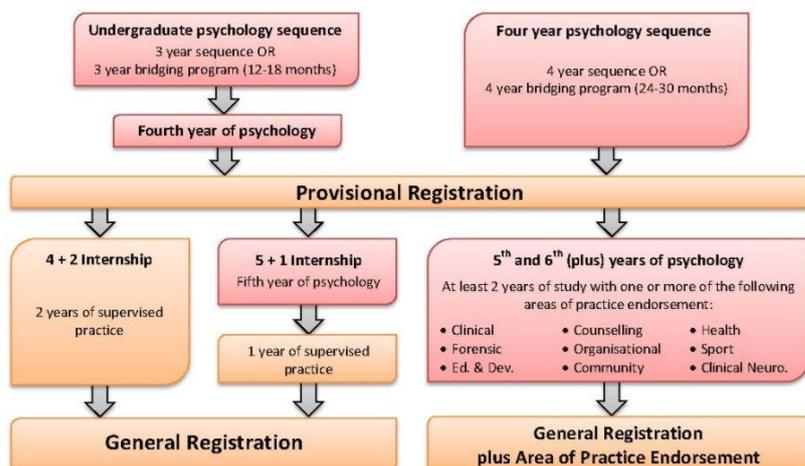
[Bachelor of Psychology](#) – University of Southern Queensland

[Bachelor of Social Science \(Psychology\)](#) – University of Sunshine Coast

[Bachelor of Psychological Science](#) - Central Queensland University

[Bachelor of Psychological Science](#) – James Cook University

Courses in QLD



Source: Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (2017)

How is psychology different to psychiatry?

Psychiatrists train as doctors, then do extra study in psychiatry. When they work with patients, prescription medication may be a part of the treatment. A psychologist does not have training as a doctor, and cannot prescribe medication.

How is psychology different to social work?

Psychology study and professional work comes from the perspective of science. Social work, however, is founded in sociology – and the focus is working in the community rather than working in a clinical situation. If you are considering courses in psychology or social work, it is important to look carefully at the units in the courses before making a decision, so that you understand the type of knowledge and learning experiences in the two different types of courses. Social workers and psychologists both work with clients to help them – but they have much different study pathways. Think of psychology as linking to science, and social work to the humanities.

Employability Skills

What are Employability Skills?

Employability skills are personal, transferable skills that are important to employers. Young people gain employability skills at school, work, and when volunteering or participating in sport or cultural activities. The Australian Jobs Guide 2017 gives "people skills", how we relate to others, as the employability skills most important to employers in Australia.

[Youth Central](#) (a great website for young people by the Victorian Government), explains 8 employability skills:

Communication: being confident to speak with others and in written letters, notes, customer documents. Every group task, oral presentation and assignment at school helps this one!

Teamwork: being able to work well with others and support the team by doing your allocated tasks well. Volunteering and part-time work can help you to learn these skills.

Problem-solving: being able to find solutions in a new situation or task. You work on this when you do school assignments, and, for example, handling customer complaints in your part-time job.

Initiative and Enterprise: being able to think creatively and make improvements to the way things are. Think about joining a service group at school to develop this skill.

Planning and Organising: being able to plan, prioritise and meet deadlines. You do this every day as you meet school deadlines and organise all the activities you do.

Self-Management: being able to get on with your work without someone having to check on you. Learning how to work independently is a very important work skill.

Learning is life-long. Taking opportunities at work to learn new things, undertaking study so that you have the capacity to advance in your work or take up new, higher-level jobs is a part of every successful worker's life.

Technology and Using Tools: having the capacity to use a word processor, spreadsheet and email (and using the tools of your trade) are core things at work. You need to feel comfortable to try new programs, learn to trouble-shoot and show that you are keen to learn for this skill.

Why are employability skills important for young people at school?

The Australian Jobs 2017 report states that about 2/3 of employers put more emphasis on employability skills when they are hiring employees than they do on technical skills.

A [Seek article on transferable skills](#) tells us that, as workplaces and jobs change over time – with some jobs ceasing to exist and new ones developing, it is the transferable skills we have which will make us flexible, employable, and able to adapt to change.



QTAC Checklist for Year 12 students applying for Tertiary Study

- ✓ I meet ALL pre-requisites for ALL courses listed.
- ✓ I have checked my learning account on the Student Connect website to make sure that qualifications which should be listed there are in.
- ✓ I have up-to-date contact information with QTAC (and not my school email).
- ✓ If I think I might be on holiday and not able to access the QTAC website when offers come out, I have authorized a responsible adult to be able to access my application if I can't
- ✓ Courses are listed in order of offer-rounds, with December offer courses listed first. **This has been checked on the QTAC website.**
- ✓ I have at least 2 preferences which I know are "safe" for entry, given my rank/OP prediction (For many students, this is a Diploma to Bachelor option).
- ✓ If there are application requirements, such as application to an institution, organisation of folio, audition etc I have followed all procedures by due dates given in the QTAC book.
- ✓ If I have applied for special consideration via EAS for personal illness as part of the application, I am aware of all the supporting documentation needed and will submit by the due dates. If I want to apply for EAS but I have already submitted my application, I will ring QTAC for help.
- ✓ I have organized a tax file number as I need this to enroll with my institution



Q T A C

DON'T MISS OUT

Remember, to view all upcoming events visit your School Careers Website under "Important Information". You can even elect to have some or all calendar reminders emailed to you weekly.

The above information has been gathered from a range of sources including publicly available websites, and institutional and organisational newsletters. Every effort has been made to ensure the information provided is accurate and up to date at the time of publication.