

Career options: Information Technology

Communication, presentation skills, people management skills, being proactive, financial accountability and excellent customer service skills are the ways information technology candidates with strong technical skills stand out in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

Nick Airley, manager of Hays I.T. in Sydney, says that while excellent technical ability still tops his list of 'must haves', he agrees with other recruitment experts that soft skills have crept up the wish list of employers.

"Although many clients prefer candidates with an industry-specific skills base, many people with good technical skills can work across industries from banking to pharmaceuticals. The issue then becomes how [a candidate] relates to clients," Mr Airley says.

"One of the reasons soft skills are so hot these days is because there is so much more interaction between roles like programmers and developers and the end user - the client or customer. Technical people are involved in all parts of the life cycle of a product or service," he says. (Written by Kate Southam, Careerone)

Occupations and industries

Virtually all large employers employ IT professionals. IT affects every business today: retail, banking, farming, teaching, transport, manufacturing, publishing, services and most other industries.

IT Skills Hub has identified the twenty five most commonly advertised job types for IT professionals & describes each of these & the skills they require at the [IT Skills Hub Position Mentor](#).

Positions and employers

Many graduate employers recruit from a wide range of disciplines. The major directory of graduate recruitment in Australia, [Graduate Opportunities](#), lists employers by the disciplines from which they are recruiting. You might be surprised by the range of employers recruiting from your degree and the sectors of the workplace where you might establish a career.

Examples of positions and employers include:

Analyst Programmer

Accenture

Analyst Programmer

CITEC

Analyst Programmer

IBM Global Services

Analyst Programmer	Professional Systems Development
Analyst Programmer	Queensland Treasury Corporation
Assistant Computer Programmer	Blue-Chip Software Corporation
Associate Applications Engineer	Oracle Corporation
Associate Software Engineer	IBM
Automated Systems Tester	Department of Employment
Business Technical Support Officer	Digital Media Pty Ltd
Computer Installer	Hire Intelligence
Computer Programmer Tester	Praxa
Computer Programmer	QSI Payments
Computer Support Technician	Formox International Group
Control Systems Engineer	Integral Logic
Database Administrator	Queensland Health
Oracle Database Administrator	Brisbane City Council
Help Desk Operator	Queensland Cement Ltd
Information Services Officer	Queensland Health
Information Systems Auditor	Queensland Treasury
Information Technology Administrator	Total Performance Group
Information Technology Developer	Suncorp-Metway Ltd
Information Technology Officer	Department of Defence
Job Scheduler, Information Technology Infrastructure	Energex Ltd
LAN Administrator	CITEC
MIS Consultant	True North Information Solutions
Programmer	Exact Computer Solutions
Project Manager	Global Property Link Australia
Quality Control Inspector	Evolution Professional Engineers
Software Configurer	Saville Systems
Software Developer	Saville Systems
Software Engineer	4C Technology Pty Ltd
Software Engineer	CIP Australia
Software Engineer	Nortel Networks
Software Installer	Advanced Data Integration
Software Tester	Investment Data Technologies
System Engineer	Secret Solutions
Systems Analyst	Axia Business Service
Technical Analyst	ADC
Technical Services Consultant	Softlink Australia

Internet Technician
Web Application Developer
Web Developer

Fluor Daniel
Queensland Police Service
Oyster Web Systems

Some sample job advertisements

The Health Insurance Commission is seeking final year IT students who expect to graduate in 2004 and will be available to commence work in January 2005.

The Health Insurance Commission is a Commonwealth statutory authority responsible for the administration of a number of health programs. Its purpose is to improve Australia's Health through payments and information. The HIC has a web site at www.hic.gov.au which outlines its structure, roles and responsibilities in greater detail.

The HIC, which has its National Office in Tuggeranong (ACT), has a large investment in Information Technology (IT) and employs over 400 staff in IT roles in both IT Services Division and Information & Payments Services Division.

This year both Divisions have fully embraced the IT Graduate Program, and as part of the IT Graduate program a number of opportunities exist for IT Graduates to work within both IT Services Division and Information & Payments Services Division in Canberra. A wide range of IT skills are required within both Divisions for them to carry out their roles.

With information technology being fundamental to the effectiveness of the HIC and with new information services, multiple desktop, midrange applications and mainframe access being continually updated and improved to provide services to the public sector it is important that they maintain and develop their skill base and develop recruitment.

QR's Information Services Division is seeking a graduate Developer to participate in the programming associated with the development of computer systems.

Responsibilities:

- Participate in the programming associated with the development of computer systems, under the direction of a Systems Analyst.
- Design program logic, select appropriate sub-routines, document logic of program and code program instructions.
- Arrange program testing and analyse results.
- Convert existing programs to suit new requirements.
- Investigate malfunctions in operational programs and undertake the necessary programming to remedy the deficiencies.
- Analyse programming specifications critically and discuss apparent errors with senior officers.

Mandatory qualifications:

At the time of commencement with QR, a tertiary IT related degree is required. Some positions require mandatory qualifications to satisfy legal requirements. Mandatory qualifications are the minimum levels required of applicants if they are to be considered for the position. These requirements generally relate to professional and technical positions. Consideration cannot be given to any applicant who does not possess the mandatory qualifications listed in the position description. The appointee will be required to:- Observe all legal and safety obligations of the organisation.

Key selection criteria:

- Sound knowledge of Information Technology programming techniques.
- Sound knowledge of Information Technology disciplines.
- Sound interpersonal, written, oral communication and negotiation skills.
- Sound skill in working with people across formal and functional boundaries.

CISRA is recruiting IT students who will be completing their studies at the end of 2004 and are for commencement in early 2005.

CISRA is the Australian R&D centre for Canon, world leader in cameras, business machines and imaging and information technologies. Due to their excellence and expertise in digital imaging technologies and our advanced facilities, CISRA has experienced tremendous growth from its origins as a small R&D centre. As a result of this they are not only one of Canon's largest R&D centres outside Japan, they are also one of the largest private R&D centres in Australia. With over 180 engineering, research and support staff CISRA now has an annual turnover of more than A\$30 million. Together with Canon R&D centres in Japan, America, Europe and Asia, they are a key part of Canon's future technology and product development.

Project Details

Graduates work on a variety of projects within CISRA.

To be considered for a graduate role, please ensure that you include a typed copy of your academic transcript as part of your resume in completing your profile.

Vacancies on-line

Useful sites include:

Australia

- [Ambit](#) (IT&T recruitment specialists)
- [Australian Defence Force Recruiting](#)
- [Australian Job Search](#)
- [Australian Public Service recruitment](#)
- [Brisbane City Council vacancies](#)
- [Careerone IT vacancies](#)

- [Chifley Search and Selection \(specialist engineering recruitment\)](#)
- [Graduate Opportunities](#) (the major directory of graduate recruitment in Australia)
- [IT2](#)
- [JobsDB.com](#)
- [JobServe](#)
- [MyCareer IT vacancies](#)
- [New South Wales Government jobs](#)
- [ProBono Australia](#) (Skilled professionals voluntary positions in not for profit organisations)
- [Queensland Government Jobs](#)
- [Recruitment Consultants in Australia](#) (Searchable by Industry sector)
- [Seek Campus](#) (specialist Australian graduate recruitment)
- [Teach for Australia](#) recruits outstanding, well-rounded graduates from all disciplines who have the distinguished academic performance, leadership experience, and communication and empathy skills to succeed in teaching in disadvantaged schools.
- [Unijobs](#) (Vacancies of all types in Australian universities)

International

- [Academic careers](#) (Academic vacancies worldwide)
- [Alpha-Maps](#) (specialist Asian graduate recruitment)
- [Contact Singapore](#)
- [Eurograduate live](#) (specialist European graduate recruitment)
- [Going Global](#) (Over 10,000 job vacancies listed across Europe, Asia-Pacific, UK, US. Global key employer directories, work permits & visa regulations, country specific cultural & interviewing advice & more)
- [GradIreland.com](#) (specialist Irish graduate recruitment)
- [Idealist.org](#) (paid & voluntary positions in non-profit organisations globally)
- [Malaysia: Graduan](#) (specialist Malaysian graduate recruitment)
- [Off-shore Employment Links for Australian Professionals](#) (Provides links and information for vacancies within international government and non-government organisations)
- [Prospects Web UK](#) (specialist UK graduate recruitment)
- [Quintessential Careers](#) (specialist US graduate recruitment)
- [United Nations competitive recruitment examination](#)
- [United Nations graduate internships](#)

Targeting potential employers

Many work opportunities are not advertised. It is common practice for jobseekers to search out these opportunities. When approaching potential employers, conducting research to identify links between your selling points (your skills, experience, interests and qualifications) and an employer's needs, increases your chances of success. Research will also reduce the number of approaches you need to make, saving you time in the end. Developing and using your personal and professional networks is also a valuable tool in finding these 'hidden' opportunities.

Australia

- [Accounting firms in Australia](#)
- [Advertising agencies in Australia](#)
- [Australian Mining Directory](#)
- [Australian Government Departments & Agencies](#)
- [Australian Universities](#)
- [Australian Stock Exchange \(ASX\) listed companies](#)
- [Austrian Suppliers Directory \(AUSTRADE\)](#)
- [Australian Web Designers Directory](#)
- [Banking & Finance Companies in Australia](#)
- [Directory of the meetings & events industry in Australia](#)
- [Filmtv biz](#)
- [Financial planning & investment advice companies](#)
- [Games Development Companies in Australia](#)
- [Information Industry Companies in Australia](#)
- [Infrastructure & utilities companies](#)
- [Insurance Companies in Australia](#)
- [Investment Funds Management companies](#)
- [Law firms in Australia](#)
- [Local Governments in Australia](#)
- [Logistics Consultants in Australia](#)
- [Market & social research companies in Australia](#)
- [Not for Profit organizations in Australia](#)
- [Recruitment consultants in Australia](#) (searchable by industry sector or alphabetically)
- [Stockbroking companies in Australia](#)
- [Telecommunications companies in Australia](#)
- [Top 2000 Australian company profiles](#)
- [Web designers in Australia](#)

International

- [Australian Chamber of Commerce Korea members](#)
- [Australia and New Zealand Chamber of Commerce in Japan](#)
- [China: Australia Beijing Chamber of Commerce members](#)
- [China: Australia Shanghai Chamber of Commerce members](#)
- [Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce members](#)
- [Malaysia: Australia Malaysia Business Council members](#)
- [Thailand: Australia Thailand Chamber of Commerce members](#)
- [Banks worldwide](#)
- [Chambers of Commerce worldwide](#)
- [CPA firms worldwide](#)
- [Embassies & consulates worldwide](#)
- [Governments worldwide](#)
- [Newspapers worldwide](#)
- [Stock exchanges worldwide](#)
- [The 500 largest companies in America](#) (Fortune Magazine listing)
- [The 500 largest companies in the world](#) (Fortune Magazine listing)
- [Universities worldwide](#)

Employment prospects and starting salaries

[Gradsonline](#) provides information on employment rates and median starting salaries by field of study, for Australian university graduates surveyed four months after graduation. Information on occupations Australia-wide, such as the size of the workforce, employment prospects and average weekly earnings is available from [JobOutlook](#).

Professional associations

Joining a professional association is a great way to meet people in your field, who can assist you to explore your career options and potentially find employment opportunities. These associations exist in every field of employment and hold regular professional development and networking events. Students are welcome to join, and membership often costs as little as \$50 per year.

- [Association for Computing Machinery](#)
- [Association for Information Systems](#) (Australasian chapter)
- [Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists & Managers](#) (APESMA)
- [Australian Computer Society](#)
- [Australian Information Industry Association](#)
- [Australian Interactive Media Industry Association](#)
- [Game Developers Association of Australia](#)
- [Information & Communications Technology Chapter of the Griffith Alumni Association](#)
- [Internet Industry Association](#)
- [Internet Society of Australia](#)
- [Network Professional Association](#)
- [Queensland Society for Information Technology in Education](#) (QSITE)
- [Society for Technical Communication](#)
- [System Administrators Guild of Australia](#)
- [Women in Technology](#)
- [X Media Lab](#) (International think-tank ,production workshop & conference for professionals in new media industries)
- [Enterprise Network for Young Australians](#)
- [Advance Australian Professionals in America](#)

Other career-related links for Information Technology students

- [Certified Network Professional](#) The CNP is the professional designation for information technology networking professionals internationally. It was developed by the Network Professional Association (NPA). The NPA expects this designation to be recognized as the seal of approval for the profession in the same way that the Certified Public Accountant or CPA is recognized as the seal of approval for accountants.