

## COMPUTING & INFORMATION SYSTEMS



This is a detailed profile of the computing and information systems field of study. It lists the range of specialisations available and compares degree-level courses. We examine the institutions that get the best ratings, based on real student experience and graduate outcome data, which will help you decide the right university for your educational journey.

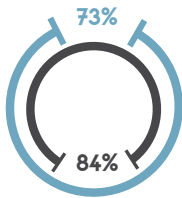
# COMPUTING & INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Information technology is a vital part of commerce, industry, government, education and even entertainment, recreation and communications. A qualification in computing and information systems opens a wide variety of options for graduates.

## FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

UNDERGRADUATE POSTGRADUATE

Proportion of students who have secured a full-time job within four months of graduating.



## NUMBER OF STUDENTS



15,461  
UNDERGRADUATE  
INTERNATIONAL

43,683  
UNDERGRADUATE

29,647  
POSTGRADUATE



## MEDIAN GRADUATE SALARY

\$60,000  
UNDERGRADUATE

\$88,000  
POSTGRADUATE

Data has been sourced from the Graduate Outcomes Survey. Results are pooled to represent graduates who completed the survey in 2018, 2017 and 2016. Graduates complete the Graduate Outcomes Survey approximately four months post-graduation.

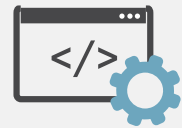
## WHAT CAN I DO?



Programming



Computer Science



System Analysis



Project Development



Information Security



System Engineering



# FIVE-STAR UNIVERSITIES

## COMPUTING & INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE	GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT	LEARNER ENGAGEMENT	LEARNING RESOURCES
UniSA 82.2%	ANU 87.7%	FEDERATION 75.9%	UniSA 91.7%
UNE 81.6%	WOLLONGONG 84.8%	ACU 69.9%	QUT 89.1%
ECU 81.5%	UNE 84.6%	CDU 69.4%	FEDERATION 88.7%
QUT 80.9%	QUEENSLAND 84.1%	QUT 67.9%	DEAKIN 88.6%
CURTIN 80.0%	UNSW 83.9%	UTS 66.4%	ECU 88.4%
CSU 76.6%	FLINDERS 82.5%	UniSA 66.4%	UTS 88.3%
FLINDERS 75.4%	CSU 81.9%	JCU 64.1%	QUEENSLAND 87.8%
QUEENSLAND 74.9%	SYDNEY 81.6%		
	USQ 81.5%		
<b>NATIONAL AVERAGE = 72.5%</b>	<b>NATIONAL AVERAGE = 73.0%</b>	<b>NATIONAL AVERAGE = 59.9%</b>	<b>NATIONAL AVERAGE = 82.8%</b>
MEDIAN STARTING SALARY	SKILLS DEVELOPMENT	STUDENT SUPPORT	TEACHING QUALITY
CSU \$70,000	UniSA 83.9%	FEDERATION 88.2%	UNE 87.8%
CQUni \$69,000	JCU 81.2%	USQ 83.3%	FEDERATION 82.9%
ECU \$65,000	ECU 80.9%	JCU 81.1%	CQUni 81.4%
UNSW \$64,300	FEDERATION 80.7%	CSU 80.7%	ECU 81.2%
ANU \$63,000	CQUni 79.0%	CDU 80.6%	UniSA 80.5%
	UTS 76.7%	ACU 80.2%	QUT 80.3%
	QUT 76.5%	UniSA 78.7%	CURTIN 80.0%
			QUEENSLAND 79.5%
<b>NATIONAL AVERAGE = \$60,000</b>	<b>NATIONAL AVERAGE = 74.4%</b>	<b>NATIONAL AVERAGE = 72.2%</b>	<b>NATIONAL AVERAGE = 75.0%</b>

**WHAT DO THESE NUMBERS MEAN?** The ratings above represent the top 20 per cent of results for each measure in this particular field of study. For overall institution results, see the ratings section at the front of the guide.

# COMPUTING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The following are just some of the majors you can study in this field:

- Artificial intelligence
- Business programming
- Computer systems
- Cybersecurity
- Database management
- Games design and development
- Mobile applications development
- Network engineering
- Software engineering
- Web computing

There's no doubt that information technology is a vital part of our lives — commerce, industry, government, education and even entertainment, recreation and communication all depend on it. If you want to study in this field, you might need to give some thought to identifying which aspect most interests you.

## COURSES AND SPECIALISATIONS

As new technology develops and extends its reach through businesses, homes and almost all aspects of life, the list of specialisations in the field keeps growing. Depending on the course and specialisations you choose, you could wind up going in one of a few different directions within the very large information and communications technology (ICT) sector. You might find that you're more interested in the hands-on stuff to do with hardware and networking. Alternatively, you might want to develop systems and programs, whether for databases or the web. Another option is to work towards an information technology operations or management role. There are also roles that demand creative flair, such as interactive multimedia, or you could sample one of the field's newer niches (cloud computing or mobile applications development, for instance).

Courses in applied science, information technology, computer science or informatics may all include relevant specialisations — everything from computer systems,

networking, software engineering, programming and web computing to the more obscure, like artificial intelligence. Some courses have specific titles that indicate an exclusive focus on one specialisation. Others are more closely related to business or engineering, including business information systems or computer engineering degrees. Double degrees are quite common and can give you a good backup in case of a downturn in the industry, equipping you with what might be seen as an alternative skill set. Before you worry too much about your long-term prospects in this field, remember that information technology covers many different roles in a wide range of sectors and businesses — they are not all vulnerable to shifting employment trends.

For more information, visit:

- Australian Computer Society (ACS)  
[www.acs.org.au](http://www.acs.org.au)

## WHERE TO STUDY

The most important thing is that you choose a course that interests you, whether it is technical, theoretical or business-oriented. You need to make sure that you don't enrol in a course that is either too practical or too theoretical if your interests are at the opposite end of the spectrum. As you're looking around, be sure to scope out the equipment available at campuses of interest, as some institutions may have trouble keeping up with industry-standard hardware. One way to know what you're getting is to look for courses that are accredited by the ACS. To get this stamp of approval, universities have to cover 'core' curriculum and maintain their equipment to a certain standard.

Entry difficulty varies depending on the institution and specialisation of choice, with some courses more competitive than others. Many are near the bottom of the cut-off scale, but subjects such as maths and physics are often required or recommended for entry. There are also some 'co-op' courses that incorporate paid industry placements, which are tougher to get into.

# Create a career you love



Torrens University Australia brings a fresh, modern, careers-focused and global perspective to higher education.

With small class sizes, individual success coaches and industry experts as lecturers, it is no surprise that 9 out of 10 of our graduates land a job they love within the first year.



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**SHEREE  
FIALA**



**BACHELOR OF CREATIVE TECHNOLOGIES (GAME ART)  
TORRENS UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA**

"I've had a passion for games since I was really young, creating content for games was something I originally wanted to do. I was inspired by the games that merged art with gaming, but I never thought I could turn it into a career. I feel like with the skills I'm learning, I can definitely enter the industry. Torrens University Australia offers great lecturers and really awesome facilities. It's not just a dream anymore, it's a viable career choice – it's definitely right for me."