In a high-tech, knowledge-driven age, the majority of organisations including government, business and industry, depend on the design, implementation and management of ICT based systems. Over the next four years to 2020, employment in this sector is expected to grow moderately. With continuing advances in the types and uses of technology, such as cloud computing and IoT, mobile, social media and data analytics, organisations will increasingly look to ICT for innovative ways of influencing productivity, supporting customers and finding a competitive edge.

New technological developments are facilitating change and growth in many industries, and current leading opportunities are not only found within information technology systems and services. As a Business Information Systems graduate, you will possess skills for a diverse range of sectors and roles. BIS professionals work across industries that provide opportunities in: ICT Consultancies; Business Consultancies; Telecommunications; Power; Mining, Finance and Banking, Government; Community and Not-for-Profits, Retail, Entertainment and Recreation, Transport and Logistics, Security Services, Media and Communication, Health Services and more.

Businesses are increasingly demanding that their ICT workers possess broader and more general skills, including such skills as relationship management, customer service, strategic planning and contract negotiation. This reflects the increasing integration of ICT in core organisation functions and the need for ICT workers to consider the broader organisational implications associated with technological use and change. Whilst you will have gained appropriate technical skills during your study, you will further benefit from ensuring your ability to demonstrate high level presentation skills and communicate how complex technical issues impact the organisation. ICT professionals are also required to have high level critical thinking skills. These will assist you in successfully gaining employment in a work area you prefer.

Engage in your career before you graduate

When considering what you can do with your degree, it is important to not only do well academically, but to ensure you enhance your generic employability skills, identify your technical strengths and expand your networks. Becoming involved in what is going on in the world of Business Information Systems, through additional curricular and co-curricular activities, will demonstrate your commitment to the ICT field and can make you more competitive:

• Engage with the Careers Centre as it helps you develop awareness and insights about the employment market, employability skills and other career opportunities, see http://www.murdoch.edu.au/Careers-and-employment-centre/Students/


• Seek to participate with corporations that host competitions, labs, experimental teams and projects

• Apply for graduate programs, vacation work or similar and pursue opportunities through university (e.g. Peer Tutor/Mentor, PASS Leader, Murdoch Student Emerging Leaders (MSEL) programme)

• Volunteer in areas involving ICT and help organisations with ICT problems. The Murdoch Volunteering Hub is a useful resource for ideas on where to gain relevant volunteer work. Students can also graduate with “Community and Career Skills Development Transcript” through volunteering. Further information is available via the Murdoch Volunteering Hub website www.the-guild.com.au/volunteering-hub

• Gain Certifications with specialised software wherever you can

• Actively participate with your professional association (Australian Computer Society and/or Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers) and on-campus student group so you get connected with professionals, attend networking events, forums, swap ideas, collaborate on projects, and meet people in the industry.

These experiences will give you industry contacts and knowledge to assist you to transition to the professional workplace.
Careers in Business Information Systems

The ICT jobs that are currently in high demand include a mix of technical and business-related roles, with several of the most in-demand occupations reflecting emerging areas such as cloud computing and data analytics. Graduates have secured work with the following job titles:

- ICT Business Analyst
- ICT Project Manager
- Technical Consultant
- Project Manager
- Systems Analyst
- Computer Systems Analyst
- Programmer Analyst
- Systems Engineer, Business and Technology Alignment Office
- E-Learning Project Officer.

Adaptability of your Business Information Systems degree and Alternative Careers:

Your technical, analytical, research and working with data skills and an ability to coordinate, manage time and work well cooperatively can be applied to other ICT careers that you might not have even thought about. Here are some that identify the major skills components you will have acquired:

- Software Developers, Applications and Systems Software
- Database Administrators
- Enterprise Architects
- Software Quality Assurance Engineers and Testers
- Business Development, Data Analyst, Technical Writer/Trainer
- Business Systems Administrator, Practice Manager Business Enablement.

Launching your career requires planned strategies to approach the market as well as building a reputation for getting on with the task at hand. Remember that careers are dynamic – they evolve along with your life experiences. You have the ability to make yours meaningful through active engagement in the world around you, through undertaking professional development programs, through purposeful industry-based networking initiatives and stepping up to opportunity. A degree in Business Information Systems is a great starting point.