



# MMCC8026

## Data Journalism

Session 2, Special circumstances 2021

*Department of Media, Communications, Creative Arts, Language and Literature*

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#### **Disclaimer**

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#### **Session 2 Learning and Teaching Update**

The decision has been made to conduct study online for the remainder of Session 2 for all units WITHOUT mandatory on-campus learning activities. Exams for Session 2 will also be online where possible to do so.

This is due to the extension of the lockdown orders and to provide certainty around arrangements for the remainder of Session 2. We hope to return to campus beyond Session 2 as soon as it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Some classes/teaching activities cannot be moved online and must be taught on campus. You should already know if you are in one of these classes/teaching activities and your unit convenor will provide you with more information via iLearn. If you want to confirm, see the list of [units with mandatory on-campus classes/teaching activities](#).

Visit the [MQ COVID-19 information page](#) for more detail.

## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Senior Lecturer

Margie Borschke

[margie.borschke@mq.edu.au](mailto:margie.borschke@mq.edu.au)

Contact via email

10HA 159

By appointment on Thurs 4-5 or Fri 10-11; All consultations via Zoom or Phone

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MMediaComm or MCrInd

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit focuses on innovative approaches to finding, reporting, producing and interacting with media stories through basic data analysis and data visualization. Students will critically analyse and gain practical experience in finding data-sets, using data-driven reporting techniques and producing effective and informative visualisations. The unit also covers user experience, interactivity and the rhetorical use of big and small data in media practice.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

**ULO1:** analyse the practice of data journalism, its products (including visualizations and interactive reporting) and its history.

**ULO2:** demonstrate an advanced knowledge of how to gather, analyse and interpret data as a journalist.

**ULO3:** apply advanced reporting and storytelling techniques to find and produce stories that inform, educate and entertain.

**ULO4:** evaluate and analyse new literacies in journalism.

**ULO5:** situate the focus on data and visualization within debates about journalism and its social function.

## General Assessment Information

- All work must be submitted as a single document (Doc or PDF) online via the Turnitin submission box on iLearn.

Please note that the University and the Faculty of Arts have launched a new assessment policy effective as of 1 July 2021. This new policy particularly affects LATE SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS.

- The Faculty policy in relation to late assessment submissions is as follows:

**Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – 10 marks out of 100 credit will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted seven days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests, etc.**

To be very clear:

- Unless you have applied for special consideration and had your application approved, for each day your assignment is late, 10 marks will be deducted. For example, if you submit your assignment 7 days late, 70 marks will be deducted, which means you will fail that assignment.
- If your assignment is more than 7 days late (including weekends), you will get 0 for your assignment.

These are serious penalties that will substantially alter your final grade and even determine whether you pass or fail this unit. Please make every effort to submit your assignment by the due date.

If you find you cannot submit your assignment on time, please apply for Special Consideration through AskMQ. Make sure you read Macquarie University's policy regarding Special Consideration requests before you apply: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/special-consideration>

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">Writing Project</a>	40%	No	10:00 30/08/2021
<a href="#">Data Visualization in Context</a>	60%	No	10:00 01/11/2021

## Writing Project

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Project

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 30 hours

Due: **10:00 30/08/2021**

Weighting: **40%**

This project contains two set exercises and a scholarly introduction that contextualises your work within key debates and discussions from the set readings and seminar content. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- analyse the practice of data journalism, its products (including visualizations and interactive reporting) and its history.
- demonstrate an advanced knowledge of how to gather, analyse and interpret data as a journalist.
- apply advanced reporting and storytelling techniques to find and produce stories that inform, educate and entertain.
- evaluate and analyse new literacies in journalism.
- situate the focus on data and visualization within debates about journalism and its social function.

## Data Visualization in Context

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 50 hours

Due: **10:00 01/11/2021**

Weighting: **60%**

This portfolio contains three original data visualisations and an reflective essay. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- analyse the practice of data journalism, its products (including visualizations and interactive reporting) and its history.
- demonstrate an advanced knowledge of how to gather, analyse and interpret data as a

journalist.

- apply advanced reporting and storytelling techniques to find and produce stories that inform, educate and entertain.
  - evaluate and analyse new literacies in journalism.
  - situate the focus on data and visualization within debates about journalism and its social function.
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<sup>1</sup> If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

<sup>2</sup> Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

## Delivery and Resources

This class is timetabled as Lecture + Tutorial however you should approach it as a Seminar divided into two parts to facilitate small group activities. Each week you will attend:

1. Interactive Lecture (ONLINE): All students are expected to attend the 1 hour interactive online lecture/seminar via Zoom. This will include mini-lectures but in the spirit of a seminar, this will also include student-led discussion and collaboration. Participation is encouraged and expected. The 'lecture' portion of the class will be available for review on ECHO360 if you miss it. Please come having done any assigned readings, watched any assigned videos and with any prep work completed. General questions about content and assessments should be asked during this hour either in the question period or via chat at the appropriate time. The class will end at

2. Tutorial (ONLINE OR ON CAMPUS): These will be hands on workshops related to the Lecture/seminar content and your assessments. Any necessary preparatory work will be announced on iLearn or in the lecture.

Please bring your own device and be sure to install any necessary software before class. Paper, pencils and coloured pencils or markers will be needed in some classes.

On Campus classes will be expected to maintain social distancing and partake in all COVID-safe practices. If you are unwell DO NOT come to campus; Attend the online tutorial instead.

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#) (<https://policie>

[s.mq.edu.au](https://www.mq.edu.au)). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

## Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](https://ask.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](https://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant

information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

## Student Enquiry Service

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

If you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## Equity Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.