



MMCC2033

Music Production: Audio Recording and Mixing

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2023

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

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	2
<u>General Assessment Information</u>	3
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	4
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	6
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	6

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor

Mary Mainsbridge

mary.mainsbridge@mq.edu.au

Contact via Email

10HA 165E

By appointment

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit explores the audio-recording and mixing functions of music production. Acoustic recording practices, the virtual mixing desk, plug-ins, effects, and hardware peripherals are introduced. Conceptual and practical issues regarding audio production and recording are covered through lectures and hands-on tutorials. This unit is taught within specialized Music laboratories fully equipped with individual digital audio workstations, MIDI keyboards, microphones, mixers, and a range of recording and production software and hardware. Students will produce original audio works using music production software.

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: evaluate discipline-specific technical knowledge of digital audio editing and recording.

ULO2: analyse and explain sound and creative works, showing critical, analytical and integrative thinking.

ULO3: demonstrate independent research skills, organisational abilities, and an ability to

problem-solve technical and creative issues.

ULO4: formulate audio compositions in music software platforms, demonstrating musical creativity and originality.

ULO5: appraise and effectively communicate self-reflection of the creative process through writing.

ULO6: recognise issues of ethics and copyright in contemporary music production.

General Assessment Information

Assessment standards

Assessment standards in this unit align with the University's grade descriptors, available at: <http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/assessment>

Feedback

Feedback on assessments and student learning and performance will be provided in written or verbal form. Students will receive formal individual feedback on their performance in assessments as general comments during class discussions and in-text comments attached to assignments marked in Grademark/Turnitin. Feedback may also be delivered verbally in tutorials, via email communication and in personal consultations on request. Marks are made available in the Gradebook function in iLearn.

Late Assessment Submission Penalty

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, **a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted**, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue.

This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). **Late submission of time sensitive tasks** (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) **will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.**

Special Consideration

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
Project 1	30%	No	11:55pm 8/9/23
Project 2	40%	No	11:55pm 3/11/23
Blog	30%	No	Ongoing - Weeks 7 to 13. Due 11:55pm 3/11/23

Project 1

Assessment Type ¹: Creative work

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **11:55pm 8/9/23**

Weighting: **30%**

Students will produce an original musical work (2-4 minutes) in the style of their choice. This project should demonstrate an ability to creatively work with audio files, resulting in a coherent musical composition. The project should incorporate production techniques discussed in lectures, including both sampling and recording. Projects will be accompanied by documentation including a project summary and audio/copyright information. All audio material used must be of copyright-permitted or of Creative Commons origins and all collaborators must be acknowledged in the project documentation. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- evaluate discipline-specific technical knowledge of digital audio editing and recording.
- demonstrate independent research skills, organisational abilities, and an ability to problem-solve technical and creative issues.
- formulate audio compositions in music software platforms, demonstrating musical creativity and originality.
- appraise and effectively communicate self-reflection of the creative process through writing.
- recognise issues of ethics and copyright in contemporary music production.

Project 2

Assessment Type ¹: Creative work

Indicative Time on Task ²: 42 hours

Due: **11:55pm 3/11/23**

Weighting: **40%**

Building on tutor and peer feedback and skills developed in the previous assessment, as well as new course concepts introduced in the second half of the unit, students will produce an original musical work (3-6 minutes). This project should demonstrate an ability to creatively work with audio files and recording, resulting in a coherent musical composition. The project should incorporate advanced production techniques discussed in the unit. All audio material used must be of copyright-permitted or of Creative Commons origins. Projects will be presented to class. The final mix is to be exported from the project as a stereo wave file and uploaded to a music streaming service such as Soundcloud. Projects will be accompanied by documentation including a project summary and audio/copyright information and a link to the audio file online. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- evaluate discipline-specific technical knowledge of digital audio editing and recording.
- demonstrate independent research skills, organisational abilities, and an ability to problem-solve technical and creative issues.
- formulate audio compositions in music software platforms, demonstrating musical creativity and originality.
- appraise and effectively communicate self-reflection of the creative process through writing.
- recognise issues of ethics and copyright in contemporary music production.

Blog

Assessment Type ¹: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **Ongoing - Weeks 7 to 13. Due 11:55pm 3/11/23**

Weighting: **30%**

Students will document recording and production processes online, accompanied by independent research, examples of critical listening and analysis of relevant artists' works. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- analyse and explain sound and creative works, showing critical, analytical and integrative thinking.
- demonstrate independent research skills, organisational abilities, and an ability to

problem-solve technical and creative issues.

- appraise and effectively communicate self-reflection of the creative process through writing.
- recognise issues of ethics and copyright in contemporary music production.

¹ 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.

² 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

Lectures (delivered via iLearn) begin in Week 1. Tutorials begin in Week 2.

Required Equipment You will need to bring a suitable pair of headphones to tutorials each week. In-ear (iPod-style) headphones are not recommended, as their sound reproduction quality is generally inadequate and may jeopardise the quality of your work. Consider your headphones an investment.

Software Compatibility All production work must be completed in Pro Tools software. Pro Tools is available on all music lab and studio computers in 10HA. Online students will be provided with remote Pro Tools licenses for home computers. Additional software instruments and effects not native to Pro Tools or provided on the lab workstations should not be used, unless documentation of all instruments is provided, along with MIDI source tracks, and instruments are committed as audio (please discuss with your tutor if you plan to use non-standard issue instruments).

Data backup Students must make safety backups of all assignment work in the cloud or on removable devices. Loss of data due to lost storage devices (without backups) is not suitable grounds for an extension. Data backup and project safety copies are core requirements in all music production.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution 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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

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

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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 Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit 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.