



SSCI3004

Becoming a Change Maker

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

School of Communication, Society and Culture

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor and lecturer

Jessica McLean

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Room 262 in 25B Wally's Walk

Tuesdays 10am-12pm or by appointment over email

Lecturer

Jay King

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Lecturer

Kate Lloyd

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

130cp at 1000 level or above including (30cp from SSCI3001, POIR3060, SSCI2010, SSCI2001, SSCI2020, SSCI2002, SOC224, SSC200 and SSCI200).

Corequisites

SSCI3010 or SSCI3002

Co-badged status

Unit description

How can social scientists drive the change they want to see in the world? Students will experience how a particular phenomenon can be addressed from more than one approach and appreciate how working across boundaries and differences can generate better solutions. This unit encourages students to harness and showcase their skills as social change makers working in team projects. With input from academic, community and industry leaders, and learning communities developed across the degree, students will research, analyse, and present solutions to a driving concern emerging from their 'grand challenge' majors. Student groups will identify, plan, implement and evaluate a project to address the identified problem, and disseminate their findings. On completion, students will be able to demonstrate and apply their knowledge and skills as social scientifically oriented thinkers and change agents.

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: Apply leadership and organisational skills to successfully complete a project in a real life setting.

ULO2: Collaborate effectively with peers and subject matter experts to design, deliver and implement a project that addresses an identified problem.

ULO3: Demonstrate knowledge, skill and capacity to harness interdisciplinary perspectives in addressing and proposing solutions to complex social issues.

ULO4: Research, analyse, and present solutions to a significant issue or challenge drawing insights from their major

ULO5: Communicate approaches and findings in effective and engaging formats.

ULO6: Reflect on the development of their knowledge, skills and experience in operating as a social scientist.

General Assessment Information

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-time 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.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Group Presentation	20%	No	During class time week 12	Group	No	Observed

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Stakeholder briefing and pitch	40%	No	Pitch in class week 6; Stakeholder briefing due 10/09/2026	Individual and Group	No	Open
Portfolio	40%	No	05/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Group Presentation

Assessment Type [1](#): Presentation task

Indicative Time on Task [2](#): 10 hours

Due: **During class time week 12**

Weighting: **20%**

Groupwork/Individual: Group

Short extension [3](#): No

AI Approach: Observed

Media presentation for a wider audience. 10 minutes.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply leadership and organisational skills to successfully complete a project in a real life setting.
- Collaborate effectively with peers and subject matter experts to design, deliver and implement a project that addresses an identified problem.
- Demonstrate knowledge, skill and capacity to harness interdisciplinary perspectives in addressing and proposing solutions to complex social issues.
- Research, analyse, and present solutions to a significant issue or challenge drawing insights from their major

Stakeholder briefing and pitch

Assessment Type [1](#): Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task [2](#): 30 hours

Due: **Pitch in class week 6; Stakeholder briefing due 10/09/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual and Group

Short extension [3](#): No

AI Approach: Open

Individual stakeholder briefing (1500 words) and group pitch to stakeholder (5 mins).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply leadership and organisational skills to successfully complete a project in a real life setting.
- Collaborate effectively with peers and subject matter experts to design, deliver and implement a project that addresses an identified problem.
- Demonstrate knowledge, skill and capacity to harness interdisciplinary perspectives in addressing and proposing solutions to complex social issues.
- Research, analyse, and present solutions to a significant issue or challenge drawing insights from their major

Portfolio

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 50 hours

Due: **05/11/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Professional writing, reflective writing, poster.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply leadership and organisational skills to successfully complete a project in a real life setting.
- Collaborate effectively with peers and subject matter experts to design, deliver and implement a project that addresses an identified problem.
- Demonstrate knowledge, skill and capacity to harness interdisciplinary perspectives in addressing and proposing solutions to complex social issues.
- Research, analyse, and present solutions to a significant issue or challenge drawing insights from their major
- Communicate approaches and findings in effective and engaging formats.
- Reflect on the development of their knowledge, skills and experience in operating as a social scientist.

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
- Academic Success 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.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

Welcome to Becoming a Change Maker! This unit is run as 3 hour seminars either in person or online.

In person class: Mondays 11-2pm in 226 Tutorial Room, 12 Second Way.

Online: Wednesdays 5-8pm.

Unit Schedule

Week 1	Introductions: the unit; what students know about change; working with change
Week 2	Case study introductions and theorising change and: guest presentations from partner organisations
Week 3	Toolkit for making change
Week 4	Stakeholders and decision-making
Week 5	Developing pitches
Week 6	Presenting pitches - in class assessment
Week 7	Making change ethically
Week 8	Negotiating change
Week 9	Change making in your cases: testing your proposed changes
Week 10	Reflecting on being a social scientist
Week 11	Presenting your change proposal: main elements and time for group work
Week 12	Group presentation week – in class assessment
Week 13	Reflecting on, and presenting as, a social scientist

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 connect.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/>

Academic Success

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

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [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 the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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.

Unit information based on version 2026.02 of the [Handbook](#)