



MMCC2070

Radio: 'On Air'

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

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Email for consultation.

Tutor

Danny Chifley

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Email Helen for consultation.

Tutor

David Manna

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Ever wanted to know what it is like to be on the radio? This unit, in collaboration with 2SER radio station, provides that opportunity. Students' to gain experience and knowledge of radio through live broadcast situations and professional roles. This connects students to the latest developments in radio, podcast and audio programming.

Workshops incorporate techniques of devising live to air program material: location recordings, interviews, voice segments, entertainment, promotion and feature packages. A live magazine style program for 2SER is one outcome, extending students' team and presentation skills, while consolidating the critical, research and production expertise required to produce an extended program of this genre.

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 a range of communication and expression skills for electronic audio media productions.

ULO2: demonstrate journalistic and program making craft skills related to audio/radio productions.

ULO3: analyse the dynamics and methods necessary for successful communication with audiences and listeners.

ULO4: apply and communicate specialist skills to creative and collaborative roles in radio program production, broadcast audio media journalism, and presentation of collaboratively devised projects.

ULO5: apply and consolidate a range of technical and operational skills in radio broadcast and related audio media productions.

ULO6: reflect on practice and theory.

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 an 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 written reports and recordings only. Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs will be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
<u>Radio Show</u>	25%	No	04/09/2026	Individual	No	Observed
<u>Radio Feature</u>	40%	No	25/09/2026	Individual and Group	No	Observed
<u>Role in radio show</u>	35%	No	06/11/2026	Individual	No	Open AI

Radio Show

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 19 hours

Due: **04/09/2026**

Weighting: **25%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

Present and record an 'as live' radio show. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- apply a range of communication and expression skills for electronic audio media productions.
- demonstrate journalistic and program making craft skills related to audio/radio productions.
- analyse the dynamics and methods necessary for successful communication with audiences and listeners.

Radio Feature

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **25/09/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual and Group

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

Create a radio feature. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- apply a range of communication and expression skills for electronic audio media productions.
- demonstrate journalistic and program making craft skills related to audio/radio productions.
- analyse the dynamics and methods necessary for successful communication with audiences and listeners.
- apply and communicate specialist skills to creative and collaborative roles in radio program production, broadcast audio media journalism, and presentation of collaboratively devised projects.
- apply and consolidate a range of technical and operational skills in radio broadcast and related audio media productions.

Role in radio show

Assessment Type ¹: Creative task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 26 hours

Due: **06/11/2026**

Weighting: **35%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open AI

This assessment is based on your individual performance in your role for the radio show. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- apply a range of communication and expression skills for electronic audio media productions.
- demonstrate journalistic and program making craft skills related to audio/radio productions.
- analyse the dynamics and methods necessary for successful communication with audiences and listeners.
- apply and communicate specialist skills to creative and collaborative roles in radio program production, broadcast audio media journalism, and presentation of collaboratively devised projects.
- apply and consolidate a range of technical and operational skills in radio broadcast and related audio media productions.
- reflect on practice and theory.

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

This unit uses **in-person** lectures and workshop/tutorials.

Please Note: Lectures commence in week 1 and tutorials/workshops commence in week 2. Please attend all classes. Please check the unit schedule for more detail.

Technical assistance and demonstrations are given in tutorial/workshops and students need to be able to attend these throughout the semester. **David Manna**, Audio Technical Demonstrator, will be assisting with this instruction.

It is a requirement that an appropriate number of radio/audio programs be included as sources in scholarly reflections for all of the assessments and referenced accordingly in reference lists. These programs will form part of lectures and workshops, or be suggested for selfdirected listening. Thus, you should aim not to miss lectures or workshops. Please inform the tutor/lecturer if you cannot attend for any reason.

There are weekly tutorial and/or technical workshop sessions. These are face to face and in person and you are required to attend all tutorials and workshops. Notes are not made available after classes. If you are unable to attend the best way to catch up is by contacting your fellow students and being prepared to share your own notes when others can't attend.

iLearn is a major component of this unit. Please refer to iLearn on a weekly basis and undertake the readings and activities and participate in discussions. It is very important to check announcements on iLearn regularly. If there are any changes to assessments, notifications will be made via iLearn "announcements" so it is the responsibility of every student to keep themselves informed.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

You will be required to purchase:

1. One set of good quality closed or semi-closed headphones (for hygiene reasons these are compulsory for each student). You may have these if you have already completed MMCC2160.
2. At least one portable memory device to use to transfer audio projects.

REQUIRED READING

A selection of readings and listenings are detailed on iLearn.

Readings/listenings are accessed via Leganto <http://libguides.mq.edu.au/leganto>

NOTE that you MUST access Leganto via the block in iLearn in the first instance. This is how the system verifies you as a student in this unit.

There are some other recommended readings. Students should draw on at least two sources for their written reflections, required in the documentation portion of the assessments.

Recommended Readings

- Abel, Jessica. 2015. Out on the Wire: The Storytelling Secrets of the New Masters of Radio. Penguin Random House.
- Ahern, Steve. Making Radio. Allen and Unwin. Latest Edition in the Library.

- Alten, Stanley. Audio in Media. Belmont CA: Most recent edition is best. (Should be in the library.) The bible of audio production for those really serious about sound.
- Atton, Chris (Ed). The Routledge companion to alternative and community media
- Barnard, Stephen. Studying Radio. New York: 2000
- Beaman, Jim. Programme making for radio. London & NY: 2006
- Beaman, Jim. Interviewing for Radio. London & NY: 2012
- Biewen, John. Reality radio: telling true stories in sound, Durham, 2010 plus new edition as ebook.
- Bonini, Tiziano; Monclus, Belen. Eds. Radio audiences and participation in the age of network society, New York, NY, 2015
- Burns, Maureen et al. Histories of public Service Broadcasters on the web, New York: 2011
- Chantler, Paul & Stewart, Peter. Basic Radio Journalism. 2003
- Chignell, Hugh. Key Concepts in Radio Studies. Sage: 2009
- Chignell, Hugh. Public Issue Radio: Talks, News and Current Affairs in the Twentieth Century: 2011
- Crisell, Andrew & Guy Starkey. Radio Journalism, London: 2009
- Crisell, Andrew. Ed. Radio (3 Vols). London 2009 Crook, Tim. The Sound Handbook. London. Routledge 2012
- Dubber, Andrew. Radio in the Digital Age, Polity, London: 2013
- Emm, Adèle. Researching for the media: television, radio and journalism, London; New York 2014. Online resource.
- Fleming, Carole. The Radio Handbook. London: 2010
- Frangi, Anthony. Radio toolbox: everything you need to get started in broadcasting. Palgrave Macmillan 2012.
- Geller, Valerie. Beyond Powerful radio: a communicator's guide to the Internet age. Belmont CA: 2006.
- Griffen-Foley, Bridget. Changing Stations: The story of Australian Commercial Radio, Sydney: 2009 Hendy, David. Radio in the Global Age. Cambridge: 2000.
- Hicks, Wynford. English for Journalists. London & New York, 2nd Edition 2003.
- Keith, Michael. The Radio Station. London: Focal Press, 2000
- Keeble, Richard. Ethics for Journalists. London & New York, 2001
- Kern, Jonathon. Sound Reporting: the NPR Guide to audio journalism and production, Chicago: 2008
- Kramer, Mark & Wendy Call (Eds). Telling True Stories, NY: 2007

- Lingren, Mia, and Philips, Gail. Australian Broadcast Journalism. 3rd Ed. Oxford University Press: 2013.
- Loviglio, Jason & Hilmes, Michele (Eds) Radio's New Wave: Global Sound in the Digital Age, Routledge: 2013.
- McLeish, Robert. Radio Production, 4th Edition, Oxford: 1999
- Nuzum, Eric. Make Noise: A Creator's Guide to Podcasting and Great Audio Storytelling, Workman Publishing Company, New York: 2019.
- Shingler & Wieringa. On Air: Methods and Meanings of Radio. London: 1998.
- Squier, Susan. Ed. Communities of the air. London: 2003
- Starkey, Guy. Radio in context. London: 2004
- Street, Sean, The Poetry of Radio, the Colour of Sound. London, New York, 2011.
- Talbot-Smith, Michael. Sound Assistance. London: 1999
- Turner, Graeme. 'Politics, Radio and Journalism in Australia', in Journalism, Vol 10, no 4, August 2009

Journals of relevance (in library/electronic available)

- The Radio Journal: international studies in broadcast and audio media, (UK/international).
- Journal of Radio and Audio Media, (USA)
- Australian Journalism Review (articles on all kinds of journalism)
- Radiodoc Review: online journal reviewing documentary radio/audio (international) <http://ro.uow.edu.au/rdr/>

Podcasts

New podcasts are popping up all the time. Some good ones are:

- Australian: ABC has quite a few: try *Earshot*, *This is About*, *Sum of All Parts*, *Trace*, *What Keeps Me Awake*, *Background Briefing*, *Conversations*, *Download this Show*, *Off Track*...
- Also see the full list of finalists from the Australian Podcast Awards: <https://australianpodcastawards.com/thefinalists>
- Community radio: FBI's *All The Best* is very much the model for our features <https://fbiradio.com/podcast/all-the-best/>. 2SER also has some great podcasts <https://2ser.com/podcasts/>
- International: From USA: *Radiotopia*; *Serial*; *S-Town*; *This American Life*; *Freakonomics*; *Radiolab*; *Out on the Wire*; *Benjamin Walker's Theory of Everything*, *Story Club*, *StoryCorp*, *Radio Rookies*, *The Truth*, *She Does*, *Handpicked*

Mix, Another Round, Documentary on One, The New Yorker Radio

Hour, HowSound, From Our Own Correspondent, Third Coast International Audio

Festival, Home of the Brave, The Heart, Love + Radio, Death, Sex & Money, 99%

Invisible. Also try The Kitchen Sisters programs/projects (Davia Nelson & Nikki Silva are award winning producers based in USA): <http://www.kitchensisters.org>

- UK: BBC Sounds; *Between the Ears, Intrigue: Murder in the Lucky Hotel*, and many more via the BBC <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/podcasts> . Also check the latest audio documentaries from The Guardian (UK): <https://www.theguardian.com/podcasts>

Web radio and audio sites of interest

- Arte-Radio (in French: radio arm of European cultural channel) <https://www.arteradio.com/>
- American Public Radio Works <https://www.apmreports.org/>
- Australian Broadcasting Corporation <http://www.abc.net.au>
- ABC Editorial policies <https://edpols.abc.net.au/policies/>
- ABC Earshot (main ABC features and documentaries program) <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/earshot/>
- ABC Correspondents Report <http://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/correspondentsreport/>
- ABC Local Radio: <http://www.abc.net.au/radio/sydney/>
- ABC Radio Australia <http://www.abc.net.au/radio-australia/>
- ABC Radio Eye (Features & Docs - archive) <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/archived/radioeye/>
- ABC RN <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/>
- ABC Triple J: <http://www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/>
- ABC News radio: <http://www.abc.net.au/newsradio/>
- Australian Communications and Media Authority <https://www.acma.gov.au/>
- BBC Sounds <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds>
- University web radio in UK <http://www.birst.co.uk/>
- Commercial Radio Australia <http://www.commercialradio.com.au/>
- Community Broadcasters Association <https://www.cbba.org.au/>
- World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters <http://www.amarceurope.eu/>
- FBi Radio <https://fbiradio.com/>
- 2GB <https://www.2gb.com/>
- NOVA <https://www.nova969.com.au/nova969>
- National Public Radio (USA) <https://www.npr.org/>

- NPR Training <http://training.npr.org/>
- New Radio and Performing Arts (archive) <http://www.somewhere.org/>
- Radioinfo (subscribe to keep in touch with latest jobs etc in Australia) <https://radioinfo.com.au/>
- Radiolab (much more than a science radio show - highly recommended for its creative approach) <https://www.wnycstudios.org/shows/radiolab/>
- Radio-Locator <https://radio-locator.com/>
- Radiotopia curated set of podcasts, USA <https://www.radiotopia.fm/>
- Resonance FM <https://www.resonancefm.com/>
- SBS Radio <https://www.sbs.com.au/radio/>
- 2SER <https://2ser.com/>
- Serial Podcast cult podcast based on re-examination of murder case <https://serialpodcasts.org/>
- Sirius satellite radio <https://www.siriusxm.com/>
- Story Corps (USA) <https://storycorps.org/listen/?collection=sound-portraits>
- SYN community station, based in Melbourne, under 25s <http://syn.org.au>
- Third Coast Radio Festival <https://www.thirdcoastfestival.org/>
- This American Life show <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/>
- Transom: a showcase & workshop for new public radio (very useful to students) <http://www.transom.org/>
- UBU Web radio http://www.ubu.com/sound/radio_radio/index.html
- 2UE <http://www.2ue.com.au/>
- UN Radio <https://news.un.org/en/audio-hub>
- Hearing Voices USA "best of Public radio" Hearing Voices <http://www.hearingvoices.com/>
- The Public Radio Exchange (PRX) is a nonprofit web-based platform for digital distribution, review, and licensing of radio programs. <https://www.prx.org/>
- The Wire <http://www.thewire.org.au/>
- WNYC New York public radio station with live performance space <http://www.wnyc.org/>
- World Radio Network <http://www.wrn.com>
- BBC World Service <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldserviceradio>
- **Student radio sites, radio/journalism competitions and radio resources for learning**
- ABC Editorial Policies <http://www.abc.net.au/corp/pubs/edpols.htm>
- ABC Careers <http://www.abc.net.au/careers/>

- Southern Cross Austereo Careers <http://www.scacareers.com.au/>
- BBC Academy Podcast: Your guide to everything from editorial and craft skills to taking your next step in the industry. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02pc9zz/episodes/downloads>
- BBC Academy <http://www.bbc.co.uk/academy/en>
- BBC Academy Journalism <http://www.bbc.co.uk/academy/journalism>
- BBC Academy Production <http://www.bbc.co.uk/academy/production>
- BBC School Report (journalism training) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolreport>
- BBC Schools Radio Journalism http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/school_report/5275764.stm
- Bournemouth University, UK <http://www.birst.co.uk/>
- Deutsche Welle Radio <https://www.dw.com/en/radio/s-32771>
- Goldsmiths MA in Radio <https://www.gold.ac.uk/pg/ma-radio/>
- Griffith University Audio Journalism <http://livewirez.wordpress.com/>
- Ira Glass on storytelling (part 1 of 4) <https://youtu.be/f6ezU57J8YI>
- NEXT radio - future of radio <http://nextrad.io/>
- RMIT <http://emedia.rmit.edu.au/smpl/roar>
- Online radio journalism tute (USA) <http://www.newscript.com/>
- NPR Interns <https://www.npr.org/about-npr/181881227/want-to-be-an-npr-intern>
- Reporters sans frontiers <https://rsf.org/en>
- SALT Institute (USA) <http://www.salt.edu/>
- Policies and Procedures Student Support Young Journo Awards <http://www.youngjournalistawards.org.au/>
- Reuters Handbook of Journalism: http://handbook.reuters.com/index.php/Main_Page
- Real time world stats <http://www.worldometers.info/>

Unit Schedule

Please see iLearn for a detailed weekly schedule.

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 2026.01R of the [Handbook](#)