



MMCC2013

Screen Production: Fiction Filmmaking

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

unit convenor & lecturer

Karen Pearlman

karen.pearlman@mq.edu.au

Contact via email

10HA-147

by appointment

technical director (cameras, lights, mics, etc.)

Alex Ryan

alex.ryan@mq.edu.au

10HA

by appointment

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp at 1000 level or above including (MAS 212 or MMCC2012)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces students to fundamentals of fiction film-making. It offers students the opportunity to develop capacities to: produce, direct, design, shoot, edit, or sound design fictional narratives. As part of a film crew students begin to develop a sense of their own creative affinities. The unit aims to activate their aesthetic judgment and contribute to the cohesive collaborative production of screen stories and ideas.

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: research and plan for the realisation of a short media production.

ULO2: identify, articulate or develop screen ideas and contribute to conveying them

effectively in a short media production.

ULO3: apply practical, technical, creative and theoretical skills in screen production through execution of a role such as producing, directing, development, production management, first assistant directing, cinematography, production design, sound design or editing.

ULO4: collaborate effectively in the realisation of a short fiction film and work to production deadlines.

ULO5: synthesize and evaluate theoretical concepts in screen media to reflect on one's own and others' work in screen media.

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 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.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Online Tasks	15%	No	weekly	Individual	No	Open
Creative work 1	35%	No	11/09/2026	Individual	No	Open
Creative work 2	50%	No	04/11/2026	Individual and Group	No	Open

Online Tasks

Assessment Type ¹: Practice-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 16 hours

Due: **weekly**

Weighting: **15%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

Weekly online activities to consolidate learning from readings, lectures and equipment

demonstrations (live, on video or through handouts). These activities support student knowledge acquisition and skills development in media practice and production.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- research and plan for the realisation of a short media production.
- synthesize and evaluate theoretical concepts in screen media to reflect on one's own and others' work in screen media.

Creative work 1

Assessment Type ¹: Practice-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 35 hours

Due: **11/09/2026**

Weighting: **35%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

Each student will research and present a portfolio of items which include the following:

1. Video Essay investigating and reporting on the creative and practical responsibilities of a crew role
2. Production Plan including notes on production meetings, notes on references shared (visual, moving picture or other), additional documents as designated for roles (eg marked up scripts with director's notes, shot lists,) see ilearn for more details.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- research and plan for the realisation of a short media production.
- identify, articulate or develop screen ideas and contribute to conveying them effectively in a short media production.
- apply practical, technical, creative and theoretical skills in screen production through execution of a role such as producing, directing, development, production management, first assistant directing, cinematography, production design, sound design or editing.
- synthesize and evaluate theoretical concepts in screen media to reflect on one's own and others' work in screen media.

Creative work 2

Assessment Type ¹: Creative task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 65 hours

Due: **04/11/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual and Group

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

Working in a designated role in production crews, students script, produce, direct, design, shoot, edit, and sound design a short (approximately 5 minute) fiction film to create a work suitable for their portfolios. Through this task students develop and demonstrate capacities for coherent and compelling onscreen storytelling. Students develop their projects through successive stages of pre-production, production, and post-production, and also demonstrate ability to critically assess their own and others work. Final submission includes an approximately 300 word reflection.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- research and plan for the realisation of a short media production.
- identify, articulate or develop screen ideas and contribute to conveying them effectively in a short media production.
- apply practical, technical, creative and theoretical skills in screen production through execution of a role such as producing, directing, development, production management, first assistant directing, cinematography, production design, sound design or editing.
- collaborate effectively in the realisation of a short fiction film and work to production deadlines.
- synthesize and evaluate theoretical concepts in screen media to reflect on one's own and others' work in screen media.

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

The unit includes 10 x 2 hour practical classes (in weeks 1-7 and 10-12 inclusive), a one day intensive workshop during the second week of mid-semester break, and weekly readings/ assessable online activities.

After week 3, students will also participate in weekly self-organised production meetings, and a self-scheduled production shooting period (in weeks 8, 9, and mid-semester break).

These activities all cumulatively build skills in creative development, pre-production, production, and post-production of short fiction films.

Students are expected to gain some familiarity with all roles on the crew, develop their knowledge of story design, continuity coverage and editing, and take responsibility for a particular area of film production.

Avid editing software licenses will be provided to all enrolled students at the start of the unit.

Access to camera, lighting and sound gear will be contingent on active and responsible participation in the intensive workshop, and correct use of the booking system and required forms.

Unit Schedule

Weeks 1- 3

- Project development, pitching & crewing in practical classes
- Weekly online tasks begin in week 1 and are due every week through week 12 (15%)

Weeks 4 – 7

- Weekly pre-production meetings and reporting on these meetings within online activities platform. Preparation and finalising of scripts, designs, shotlists, casting and schedules.

CREATIVE TASK 1 DUE 11 SEPTEMBER (35%)

Weeks 8, Mid Semester Break & week 9

- production period - shoots

Week 2 mid semester break – on Campus

- 1 day Intensive workshop

Weeks 10, 11, & 12 live on campus

- In class viewings & discussion: of assembly edits, rough cuts, fine cuts, sound designs

Week 13, Wednesday 04/11

- Final Submission – productions & reflections (50%)

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.

CREWING & INTENSIVE WORKSHOPS

By the end of week three you will have a designated crew role on a production being prepared for submission as Creative Task 2.

Your entire production crew must attend the practical classes each week and the one-day intensive workshop during the second week of mid-semester break TOGETHER. During these classes and workshops we will develop your production and crew to the highest possible standard.

Once you have a designated crew role, begin independent research on that role using the weekly ilearn resources and your lecturer/tutor's advice so that you can produce Creative Task 1 - your video essay and planning documents, from the perspective of that role's creative and procedural responsibilities.

Unit information based on version 2026.03 of the [Handbook](#)