



MMCC3013

Screen Production: Open Form 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

Contact via email

10HA screen studio

by appointment

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

130cp at 1000 level or above including MAS213 or MMCC2013

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit offers students an opportunity to develop their creative, conceptual, and technical abilities through the collaborative production of fiction, non-fiction, hybrid, or experimental screen projects of their choice across different media. They are encouraged to step up to new creative challenges in roles they have an affinity for, such as directing, producing, cinematography, production design, editing or sound design. The creative opportunities of this unit can produce work suitable for professional portfolios and entry into film festivals.

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: synthesise practical, conceptual and analytical skills through the writing, development and collaborative realisation of a creative screen concept.

ULO2: differentiate technical and creative strategies through a critical analysis of creative screen works.

ULO3: evaluate critically one's own and others' creative screen projects.

ULO4: collaborate on screen production projects while individually researching, and engaging in, specialized roles.

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 in a Special consideration application.***

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Portfolio: Video Essay and Study Plan	40%	No	25/08/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Screen Production: Critical Evaluation of Role	30%	No	06/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Screen Production: Final Film	30%	No	06/11/2026	Group	No	Open

Portfolio: Video Essay and Study Plan

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **25/08/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

"Portfolio: Video Essay and Study Plan.

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

1. Video Essay analyzing screen and other excerpts of their choice OR exploring themes related to their production.
2. Study Plan must include a plan for the research that they are conducting in preparation of their role (e.g. an engagement with the ideas of montage editing [for directors and editors] or screen performance [for directors] or realism in design [for production designers]) and for the screen production they are working on. Refer to iLearn for further information."

On successful completion you will be able to:

- synthesise practical, conceptual and analytical skills through the writing, development and collaborative realisation of a creative screen concept.
- differentiate technical and creative strategies through a critical analysis of creative screen works.
- evaluate critically one's own and others' creative screen projects.

Screen Production: Critical Evaluation of Role

Assessment Type ¹: Reflection task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **06/11/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Crew role performance is assessed on the basis of the final film and a report critically analysing and evaluating the production and the student's contribution. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- synthesise practical, conceptual and analytical skills through the writing, development and collaborative realisation of a creative screen concept.
- differentiate technical and creative strategies through a critical analysis of creative screen works.
- evaluate critically one's own and others' creative screen projects.
- collaborate on screen production projects while individually researching, and engaging in, specialized roles.

Screen Production: Final Film

Assessment Type ¹: Creative task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **06/11/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Group

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

Each student will perform a crew role on a collaborative digital video screen production, or work individually on a digital video screen production of up to 7 minutes. Each student is expected to undertake adequate preparation to carry out their role.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- synthesise practical, conceptual and analytical skills through the writing, development and collaborative realisation of a creative screen concept.
- differentiate technical and creative strategies through a critical analysis of creative screen works.
- evaluate critically one's own and others' creative screen projects.
- collaborate on screen production projects while individually researching, and engaging in, specialized roles.

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

Technology & Software

This is a screen production unit. Students may be required to work with a range of the school's digital and mechanical technologies and editing software including still and moving image cameras, sound recorders and microphones, digital editing software, tripods, dollies, various portable lighting equipment, etc. Students undertaking independent productions may use their own equipment.

Health and Safety

Students must adhere to health and safety guidelines during workshops and production activities. A safety report is required for ALL productions. Detailed guidelines will be provided on iLearn.

Attendance

It is a compulsory requirement to attend all practical classes. These are held weekly in weeks 1-7 and 10-12, inclusive.

Any absence from a practical class must be supported by documentation and discussed with the convenor.

Unit Readings, online viewings, and online learning support activities

Students are expected to undertake independent research into the creative and technical aspects of screen production. A list of the weekly readings is available on iLearn, as are links to Leganto. The readings and viewing material supplement the core screen production work, enhance your understanding of theoretical and production concepts discussed during the unit, and support your successful work in the unit, the media degree and your career. It is expected that you broaden your understanding of concepts and practices relating to screen production by completing relevant readings and referencing these and independently sourced materials in your learning plan and reflection.

Unit Schedule

MMCC3013 Week by Week

(Pre week one) THURSDAY 23 JULY 3:30 – 5:30 PM	Ideas & Social Event Come and meet your convenor and cohort and talk informally about projects & aspirations for the semester.	MEET IN ROOM 284, 10HA THURSDAY 23 JULY 3:30 – 5:30 PM
Wk 1 Practical Class	Ideas & crew development & preliminary pitching Come prepared with projects that you'd like to pitch or join. (If you fail to attend it will be difficult for you to work on a collaborative project for your final assignment and you may have to submit a sole-authored film.)	MEET IN ROOM 284, 10HA

Wk 2 Practical Class	Script development & crewing Pitches & crews should have developed between week 1 & 2. Come prepared with projects you will pitch and/or ideas for crew roles you'd like to take on. (If you fail to attend it will be difficult for you to work on a collaborative project for your final assignment and you may have to submit a sole-authored film.)	MEET IN ROOM 284, 10HA
Wk 3 Practical Class & self-organised pre-production meetings	Review Camera, Sound & Light & Coverage basics Students also meet independently as a group to work on at least one aspect of their production together which will be demonstrated in class or posted online in Week 4. These aspects could include but are not restricted to: • scripting • performance • visual/aural style and directing • cinematography and design • edit and sound design • aspects of producing e.g safety The screen studio and technical support is available (during workshop hours)	meet in screen studio – room 189, 10HA
Wk 4 Practical Class & self-organised pre-production meetings	Creative & Technical skills integration & planning for onscreen drafts with Alex & Karen Students will demonstrate what they have worked on as a group the previous week by presenting their findings to class. Students will report on how they are progressing with their study plans and submit requests for technical instruction relevant to their productions.	meet in screen studio – room 189, 10HA
Wk 5 Practical Class & self-organised pre-production meetings	Creative & Technical skills integration and Test/Onscreen Draft shoot 1	meet in screen studio – room 189, 10HA
Wk 6 Practical Class & self-organised pre-production meetings	Creative & Technical skills integration and Test/Onscreen Draft shoot 2	meet in screen studio – room 189, 10HA Required Safety Approval forms must be submitted this week.

Wk 7 Practical Class & self-organised pre-production meetings	In-class 'green light' pre-production meetings & requested specialist technical instruction Students present their onscreen drafts or sample scenes (edited), their completed WHS and schedule documents	meet in screen studio – room 189, 10HA
Wk 8 Production week 1	Independently scheduled and organised shooting of films as per approved WHS forms & schedules. Upload all footage to Nexis as soon as it is shot. Editing in Avid on campus, may begin after first shoot days.	
Mid-Sem Break Production week 2		
Mid-Sem Break Production week 3		
Wk 9 Production week 4 and Post-production week 1	Continue shooting. Consultations are available with convenors and scheduling of pickups can be approved as needed.	
Wk 10 Practical Class	Edit & sound skills. View & critique assemblies	meet in screen studio – room 189, 10HA
Wk 11 Practical Class	Edit & sound skills. View & critique rough cuts	meet in screen studio – room 189, 10HA
Wk 12 Practical Class	Edit & sound skills. View & critique fine cuts	meet in screen studio – room 189, 10HA
Wk 13		Submit final film & reflection
Wk14	Grading & mixing	
Wk 15	Screening TBA	

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 2026.03 of the [Handbook](#)