



MMCC6108

Podcasting

Session 2, Online-scheduled-weekday 2026

School of Communication, Society and Culture

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Helen Wolfenden helen.wolfenden@mq.edu.au
Credit points 10
Prerequisites Admission to MMediaComm
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description In this unit you will be introduced to both the narrative and technical tools of audio storytelling. The unit will explore podcasting as a new form of spoken-word audio identifying both the continuities and divergences from precursors like radio and other allied media genres. This unit has a significant practical component and culminates in the production of a podcast episode. There is a particular focus on the requirements of producing content for the ear.

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:** Analyse the principles and techniques underlying contemporary spoken word audio production and practices.
- ULO2:** Apply practice and production skills.
- ULO3:** Communicate using appropriate styles and techniques for spoken word audio.
- ULO4:** Critique practices, production, technologies and techniques used to create podcasts

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
Quiz	15%	No	Weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10	Individual	No	Open
Practice-based Task	35%	No	04/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Media Presentation: Podcast Episode	50%	No	30/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Quiz

Assessment Type [1](#): Problem-based task

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

Due: **Weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10**

Weighting: **15%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension [3](#): No

AI Approach: Open

Quizzes will be based on listenings/readings.

Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse the principles and techniques underlying contemporary spoken word audio production and practices.
- Critique practices, production, technologies and techniques used to create podcasts

Practice-based Task

Assessment Type [1](#): Professional task

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

Due: **04/09/2026**

Weighting: **35%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Students develop a podcast concept.

Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse the principles and techniques underlying contemporary spoken word audio production and practices.
- Apply practice and production skills.
- Critique practices, production, technologies and techniques used to create podcasts

Media Presentation: Podcast Episode

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **30/10/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Students work to produce a podcast episode.

Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse the principles and techniques underlying contemporary spoken word audio production and practices.
- Apply practice and production skills.
- Communicate using appropriate styles and techniques for spoken word audio.
- Critique practices, production, technologies and techniques used to create podcasts

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

Please Note: Lectures and tutorials commence in week 1. Please attend all classes.

This unit uses lectures and tutorials. Content generated in this unit may be used as exemplars for future students.

iLearn is a major component of this unit. Please refer to iLearn frequently and undertake the quizzes, readings/listenings and activities. It is very important to check announcements on iLearn regularly.

Please ensure that your computer has adequate RAM and space to run the DAW and store your audio files.

Recommended: one set of **good quality** closed or semi-closed headphones.

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.

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.
- Alten, Stanley. Audio in Media. 10th Edition, Belmont CA: 2013 (The bible of audio production for those really serious about sound.)
- Biewen, John. Reality radio: telling true stories in sound, Durham, 2017
- Crook, Tim. The Sound Handbook. London. Routledge 2012
- Emm, Adèle. Researching for the media: television, radio and journalism, London; New York 2014.
- 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.
- Keeble, Richard. Ethics for Journalists. London & New York, 2008
- Kern, Jonathon. Sound Reporting: the NPR Guide to audio journalism and production, Chicago: 2008
- Lingren, Mia, and Philips, Gail. Australian Broadcast Journalism. 3rd Ed. Oxford Uni

Press: 2013.

- Loviglio, Jason & Hilmes, Michele (Eds) *Radio's New Wave: Global Sound in the Digital Age*, Routledge: 2013.
- McLeish, Robert. *Radio Production*, 6th Edition, Oxford: 2016
- Nuzum, Eric. *Make Noise: A Creator's Guide to Podcasting and Great Audio Storytelling*, Workman Publishing Company, New York: 2019.
- Talbot-Smith, Michael. *Sound Assistance*. London: 1999

Journals of relevance (via library/electronically available)

- The Radio Journal: international studies in broadcast and audio media, (UK/international).
- Journal of Radio and Audio Media, (USA)
- 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: The ABC has many! <https://www.abc.net.au/radio/podcasts/> Listen to a variety. You might like to try *Earshot*, *Patient Zero*, *The Eleventh*, *Sum of All Parts*, *Trace*, *Conversations* or *Off Track*.
- Also see the full list of finalists from the Australian Podcast Awards: <https://australianpodcastawards.com/>
- Community radio: FBI's All The Best <https://fbiradio.com/podcast/all-the-best/> is very much the model for our us. 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*, *StoryCorps*, *Radio Rookies*, *The Truth*, *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 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/>; *The Next Episode*, *Pieces of Britney*, *The BBC Academy* (especially the Podcastology episodes), *Forest 404* and many more!
- Also check out the latest audio productions from print publications like *The Guardian* <http://www.theguardian.com/podcasts/>

[s://www.theguardian.com/podcasts](https://www.theguardian.com/podcasts).

Web radios and audio sites of interest

- Arte-Radio (in French: radio arm of European cultural channel) <https://www.arterradio.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/>
- All the Best from FBi Radio: storytelling and short docos <https://fbiradio.com/podcast/all-the-best/>
- Australian Communications and Media Authority <https://www.acma.gov.au/>
- BBC Radio <https://www.bbc.co.uk/radio/>
- ABC Newsradio: <http://www.abc.net.au/newsradio/>
- University web radio in UK <http://www.birst.co.uk/>
- Commercial Radio Australia <http://www.commercialradio.com.au/>
- Community Broadcasters Association <https://www.cbaa.org.au/>
- World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters <http://www.amarceurope.eu/>
- FBi Radio <https://fbiradio.com/>
- 2GB <https://www.2gb.com/>
- The Heard a collection of independent podcast producers <http://www.theheardradio.com/>
- Kitchen Sisters programs/projects (Davia Nelson & Nikki Silva are award winning producers based in USA) <http://www.kitchensisters.org/>
- 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/does>

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- 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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pFI9UuC_fc
- NEXT radio - future of radio <http://nexttrad.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/>
- 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 2026.02 of the [Handbook](#)