



# MMST11003 Visual Design Fundamentals

## Term 2 - 2020

Profile information current as at 13/12/2025 03:56 pm

All details in this unit profile for MMST11003 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

### General Information

#### Overview

This unit will introduce you to fundamental principles and elements of visual design and how these can be applied in digital environments. You will develop an understanding of design as a visual language, become immersed in design thinking, and become proficient in visual communication for digital production. As you develop skills with industry-standard software tools such as Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop, you will work individually and collaboratively to create innovative solutions to design problems.

#### Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 1*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 10

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

#### Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

There are no requisites for this unit.

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

#### Offerings For Term 2 - 2020

- Brisbane
- Bundaberg
- Cairns
- Mackay
- Noosa
- Online
- Rockhampton
- Sydney

#### Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes – in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

#### Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

## Class and Assessment Overview

### Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

### Class Timetable

#### [Regional Campuses](#)

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

#### [Metropolitan Campuses](#)

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

### Assessment Overview

#### 1. **Practical and Written Assessment**

Weighting: 30%

#### 2. **Practical and Written Assessment**

Weighting: 70%

### Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

## CQUniversity Policies

**All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).**

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

## Previous Student Feedback

### Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

#### Feedback from Have your say

##### Feedback

Some required reading was in a format that was difficult to read.

##### Recommendation

Replace textbook readings with video presentations of the same material.

#### Feedback from Have your say

##### Feedback

Some weekly exercises were more difficult than the textbook examples

##### Recommendation

Revise the exercises so they are not reliant on the textbook examples.

#### Feedback from Discussions with students and colleagues

##### Feedback

The number of options given for the second assignment lead to some confusion

##### Recommendation

Streamline the weekly exercises.

## Unit Learning Outcomes

### On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. apply fundamental principles and elements of visual design in digital environments
2. communicate effectively with others in the process of design and presentation
3. develop innovative visual design solutions which combine form and function
4. create visual designs using digital technologies and industry-standard software tools

## Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



N/A  
Level



Introductory  
Level



Intermediate  
Level



Graduate  
Level



Professional  
Level



Advanced  
Level

### Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Practical and Written Assessment - 30%	•	•	•	•
2 - Practical and Written Assessment - 70%	•	•	•	•

### Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Communication	•	•	•	•
2 - Problem Solving	•	•	•	•
3 - Critical Thinking	•	•	•	
4 - Information Literacy				•
5 - Team Work				
6 - Information Technology Competence	•		•	•
7 - Cross Cultural Competence				
8 - Ethical practice				
9 - Social Innovation				
10 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures				

## Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Graduate Attributes

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 - Practical and Written Assessment - 30%	•	•	•	•		•				
2 - Practical and Written Assessment - 70%	•	•	•	•		•				

## Textbooks and Resources

### Textbooks

**There are no required textbooks.**

### IT Resources

**You will need access to the following IT resources:**

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)
- Adobe Illustrator CC
- Adobe Photoshop CC

## Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)  
For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

## Teaching Contacts

**Brendan Murphy** Unit Coordinator  
[b.murphy@cqu.edu.au](mailto:b.murphy@cqu.edu.au)

## Schedule

### Week 1: Design Elements, Art and Design Movements - 13 Jul 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Design Elements, Art and Design Movements	Readings provided on Moodle	Design Portfolio Exercise 1 Workbook Exercise 1

### Week 2: Principles of Design - 20 Jul 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Principles of Design	Readings provided on Moodle	Design Portfolio Exercise 2 Workbook Exercise 2

### Week 3: Processes and Tools - 27 Jul 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Processes and Tools	Readings provided on Moodle	Design Portfolio Exercise 3 Workbook Exercise 3

### Week 4: Abstraction through Simplification - 03 Aug 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Abstraction through Simplification	Readings provided on Moodle	Design Portfolio Exercise 4 Workbook Exercise 4  <b>Workbook and Portfolio part 1</b> Due: Week 4 Friday (7 Aug 2020) 11:59 pm AEST

### Week 5: Abstraction through Repetition - 10 Aug 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Abstraction through repetition	Readings provided on Moodle	Design Portfolio Exercise 5 Workbook Exercise 5

### Vacation Week - 17 Aug 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
		Break week

### Week 6: Abstraction through line and shape - 24 Aug 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Abstraction through line and shape	Readings provided on Moodle	Design Portfolio Exercise 6 Workbook Exercise 6

### Week 7: Abstraction using letterforms - 31 Aug 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Abstraction using letterforms	Readings provided on Moodle	Design Portfolio Exercise 7 Workbook Exercise 7

### Week 8: Value - 07 Sep 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Value	Readings provided on Moodle	Design Portfolio Exercise 8 Workbook Exercise 8

### Week 9: Colour - 14 Sep 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Colour	Readings provided on Moodle	Design Portfolio Exercise 9 Workbook Exercise 9
<b>Week 10: Applying abstraction - 21 Sep 2020</b>		
<b>Module/Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Events and Submissions/Topic</b>
Applying abstraction	Readings provided on Moodle	Design Portfolio Exercise 10 Workbook Exercise 10
<b>Week 11: Non-objective shape, textures and gradients - 28 Sep 2020</b>		
<b>Module/Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Events and Submissions/Topic</b>
Non-objective shape, textures and gradients	Readings provided on Moodle	Design Portfolio Exercise 11 Workbook Exercise 11
<b>Week 12: Review - 05 Oct 2020</b>		
<b>Module/Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Events and Submissions/Topic</b>
Review		Review: seek feedback on your Portfolio and Workbook exercises
<b>Review/Exam Week - 12 Oct 2020</b>		
<b>Module/Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Events and Submissions/Topic</b>
		<b>Workbook and Portfolio Part 2</b> Due: Review/Exam Week Tuesday (13 Oct 2020) 11:59 pm AEST

## Term Specific Information

If you are an online student in the Bachelor of Digital Media, it is recommended that you subscribe to the Adobe CC suite. Student pricing is available. See <https://www.adobe.com/au/creativecloud/buy/students.html> for more detail.

## Assessment Tasks

### 1 Workbook and Portfolio part 1

#### Assessment Type

Practical and Written Assessment

#### Task Description

Please refer to the learning resources on the unit Moodle site for a full breakdown of assessment requirements. The first assignment requires you to submit your responses to the following:

- Workbook activity 1
- Design portfolio exercise 1
- Workbook activity 2
- Design portfolio exercise 2
- Workbook activity 3
- Design portfolio exercise 3

All components must be submitted in one .docx format word file. Graphical elements must be inserted into the Word document. Keep copies of your .ai and .psd files and be able to provide them to markers upon request.

#### Assessment Due Date

Week 4 Friday (7 Aug 2020) 11:59 pm AEST

#### Return Date to Students

Week 6 Friday (28 Aug 2020)

#### Weighting

30%

#### Assessment Criteria

The Design Portfolio exercises account for 20 of the 30 marks. The Workbook activities account for the other 10.

Your marker will mark each element out of 10, and from this calculate a total mark out of 30.

The following criteria will be used in marking each element:

**Design Portfolio Exercises:**

**9-10** An exemplary design that represents a thoroughly professional and creative response to the set task

**7-8** A sound design that successfully responds to the set task but has an awkward finish or does not demonstrate significant creativity

**5-6** A design that meets the requirements of the set task but in a basic manner that does not reflect a sophisticated application of basic design principles

**3-4** A generally relevant but inadequate response that disregards some relevant design principles or does not meet all of the set requirements

**1-2** A result that is not clearly relevant but touches on some aspects of the set task.

**Workbook activities:**

**9-10** An exemplary response to the set question. Discussion and/or analysis demonstrates very sophisticated understanding and skilful application of design principles and course material

**7-8** A sound response to the set question. Discussion and/or analysis demonstrates very sound understanding and skilful application of design principles and course material

**5-6** A basic response to the set question. Discussion and/or analysis demonstrates understanding and application of design principles and course material with little depth or sophistication

**3-4** A generally relevant but inadequate response that does not demonstrate clear understanding of the set question

**1-2** An attempt to carry out the required discussion or reflection that does not significantly engage with concepts from the course or is unclear.

**Referencing Style**

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

**Submission**

Online

**Submission Instructions**

Submit one .docx file containing all required written responses and inserted jpegs of all required design exercises. Keep copies of your .ai or .psd files and make these available if requested.

**Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- apply fundamental principles and elements of visual design in digital environments
- communicate effectively with others in the process of design and presentation
- develop innovative visual design solutions which combine form and function
- create visual designs using digital technologies and industry-standard software tools

**Graduate Attributes**

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Information Technology Competence

## 2 Workbook and Portfolio Part 2

**Assessment Type**

Practical and Written Assessment

**Task Description**

Please refer to the learning resources on the unit Moodle site for a full breakdown of assessment requirements.

You must complete all Design Portfolio and Workbook exercises.

This assignment requires you to submit your responses to the following:

- Workbook activities from the period Week 4 to Week 11
- Design Portfolio exercises from the period Week 4 to Week 11

Seventy marks are allocated for this assessment piece. They are distributed as follows:

- all workbook exercises: 15 marks
- five regular Design Portfolio exercises: 30 marks
- three advanced Design Portfolio exercises: 25 marks

All components must be submitted in one .docx format word file. Graphical elements must be inserted into the Word document. Keep copies of your .ai and .psd files and be able to provide them to markers upon request.

**Assessment Due Date**

Review/Exam Week Tuesday (13 Oct 2020) 11:59 pm AEST

**Return Date to Students**

Exam Week Friday (23 Oct 2020)

**Weighting**

70%

**Assessment Criteria****Design Portfolio Exercises**

Each Design Portfolio Exercise is marked out of ten. The marker will appropriately scale these marks so that you will be given a mark out of 55 that represents your overall mark for the Design Portfolio component

**9-10** An exemplary design that represents a thoroughly professional and creative response to the set task

**7-8** A sound design that successfully responds to the set task but has an awkward finish or does not demonstrate significant creativity

**5-6** A design that meets the requirements of the set task but in a basic manner that does not reflect a sophisticated application of basic design principles

**3-4** A generally relevant but inadequate response that disregards some relevant design principles or does not meet all of the set requirements

**Workbook**

**12.75-15** The workbook is of an exemplary standard. Discussion and/or analysis demonstrates sophisticated understanding and skilful application of design principles and course concepts throughout.

**11.25 -2.5** The workbook is of a very good standard. The majority of the responses demonstrate sound understanding and skilful application of design principles and course concepts.

**9.75-11** The workbook is of a good standard. The majority of the responses demonstrate sound understanding and skilful application of design principles. Concepts from the course and textbook have been applied correctly in a majority of cases.

**7.5-9.5** The workbook is of an acceptable standard. The majority of the responses demonstrate understanding and application of design principles and the responses answer the set tasks.

**0-7** The workbook is significantly incomplete or does not demonstrate an ability to understand and apply course concepts.

**Referencing Style**

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

**Submission**

Online

**Submission Instructions**

Submit one .docx file containing all required written responses and inserted jpegs of all required design exercises. Keep copies of your .ai or .psd files and make these available if requested.

**Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- apply fundamental principles and elements of visual design in digital environments
- communicate effectively with others in the process of design and presentation
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**Graduate Attributes**

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Information Technology Competence



## Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

### What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

### Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

### Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

### What can you do to act with integrity?



#### Be Honest

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own



#### Seek Help

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)



#### Produce Original Work

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem