



MUSC12418 Music Technology 1: Introduction to Sound Design

Term 1 - 2022

Profile information current as at 28/04/2024 05:16 am

All details in this unit profile for MUSC12418 have been officially approved by CQU University 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

In this unit, you will expand upon the fundamentals of audio recording and mixing to develop skills in the application of sound design techniques in the production of a podcast in response to a brief. You will conduct research in the area of podcast sound design and use these findings to inform the planning stage of your podcast project. Once you define the scope of your podcast project, you will pitch this to your peers. Your project planning will culminate in the creation of a short podcast that contains original sound design elements such as dialogue, music, sound effects and atmospheric layers.

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 2*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 8

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

For entry into this unit, you must have completed 36 credit points in this course.

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 1 - 2022

- Cairns
- Online

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. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 30%

2. **Presentation**

Weighting: 20%

3. **Portfolio**

Weighting: 50%

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](#).

Unit Learning Outcomes

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

1. Describe music technology fundamentals associated with sampling and signal processing as applicable for the production of a podcast
2. Prepare and pitch a concept document and sound design plan in response to a brief for a podcast
3. Produce a podcast which demonstrates competent use of music technology fundamentals in recording, sampling, signal processing and sound design.

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes		
	1	2	3
1 - Written Assessment - 30%	•		
2 - Presentation - 20%		•	
3 - Portfolio - 50%			•

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes		
	1	2	3
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 - Written Assessment - 30%	•			•		•		•		
2 - Presentation - 20%	•	•				•				

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3 - Portfolio - 50%	•					•	•	•	•	

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)
- Ableton Live software

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Patty Preece Unit Coordinator
p.preece@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Introduction to Podcasting - 07 Mar 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Podcast Planning - 14 Mar 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Recording and Editing Dialogue - 21 Mar 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Feedback sessions - 28 Mar 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Podcast Production Plan Due: Week 4 Friday (1 Apr 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Working with Music - 04 Apr 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Vacation Week - 11 Apr 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Project Pitching - 18 Apr 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Feedback Sessions - 25 Apr 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Working With Sound Effects 1 - 02 May 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Project Pitch Presentation Due: Week 8 Friday (6 May 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Working with Sound Effects 2 - 09 May 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Automation and Modulation - 16 May 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Mixing - 23 May 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Feedback Sessions - 30 May 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Podcast Production Due: Week 12 Friday (3 June 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Review/Exam Week - 06 Jun 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Exam Week - 13 Jun 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Term Specific Information

Equipment Requirements for Recording Projects

Performance and Production Studies students require some very specific equipment to facilitate the recording requirements of this unit. This unit provides training in performing recording and mixing music. Because of this, you will need to have access to the following:

- Ableton Live software
- An audio interface
- Your instrument
- A quick stable internet connection (preferable ethernet)
- Microphone or instrument lead
- Studio headphones and your computer / webcam

About Ableton Live

Ableton Live is an industry standard DAW (digital audio workstation) and learning how to use it is extremely beneficial. You will be required to submit Ableton Live sessions as part of your assessments and therefore need to have access to a copy of Ableton software. As the production classes are based on the Ableton software, no other DAWs are acceptable for this unit. A free 90 day full use trial version of the Ableton Live software is available for download from the Ableton Live website (<https://www.ableton.com/en/trial/>).

If you have any questions regarding these requirements, please contact the Unit Coordinator, Patty Preece (p.preece@cqu.edu.au).

Assessment Tasks

1 Podcast Production Plan

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

Pre-production and planning are essential steps in ensuring your podcast project runs smoothly, is informed by research and meets all project deadlines. In this assessment, you are required to write a plan for the production of a podcast that you will produce for assessment task 3. Your podcast plan is broken into two parts: Part A is an analysis of two podcasts and Part B addresses the project administration.

Part A

You are required to listen to two podcasts from the same genre (details provided on Moodle). Your analysis should include:

- A description of the technical attributes of the podcast (relative mix levels, music levels, dialogue quality)
- A description of the structure and how this is informed by the genre (use research to support your argument)
- A description of how music and sound effects are used (use research to support your argument)

Part B

The project administration part of your plan should address the following:

- Production timeline - include major milestones in a Gantt chart format
- Equipment requirements
 - Input and output table (for hardware and software connections)

- Software requirements
- Interview software for recording over the internet (if applicable)
- Equipment list
- WHS considerations
- Address how you will receive and implement peer and lecturer feedback

Your final submission will be:

- No more than 1000 words
- 12pt font
- Submitted as a word document
- APA referencing style.

Assessment Due Date

Week 4 Friday (1 Apr 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Vacation Week Friday (15 Apr 2022)

Weighting

30%

Assessment Criteria

- Demonstrated research on technical attributes of the two podcasts - 30%
- Demonstrated research on genre traits and signifiers as applied - 30%
- Identifies key audio technology and shows evidence of research into current industry trends: 20%
- Clearly identifies a realistic and achievable timeline - 10%
- Lists realistic WHS considerations and ways to avoid hazards - 10%

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Describe music technology fundamentals associated with sampling and signal processing as applicable for the production of a podcast

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Information Literacy
- Information Technology Competence
- Ethical practice

2 Project Pitch Presentation

Assessment Type

Presentation

Task Description

In this assessment, you will expand upon the plan you created in assessment task 1 and develop a project pitch for the podcast that you will produce for assessment task 3. Pitching takes on many forms and is used in the creative industries to secure investment and funding for projects. This assessment task is designed to introduce you to the process of pitching your ideas and concepts to a group. Your project pitch should demonstrate that you understand the project brief and that your final production will be informed by the research you carried out in assessment task 1.

Your objective with this pitch will be to convince the client that you:

- Understand the brief and the creative direction of the podcast

- Understand the podcast landscape and the genre traits for this style of production
- Can produce a product that fulfils the brief.

Your project pitch presentation will be created in presentation software, be no more than 5 minutes in length and will contain both audio and visual content. Your pitch should use this structure:

- An introduction
- The problem
- The proposed solution
- The product - present audio teaser of your final product (1 minute)

Further submission details will be provided in Moodle.

Assessment Due Date

Week 8 Friday (6 May 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Week 10 Friday (20 May 2022)

Weighting

20%

Assessment Criteria

- Clear definition of the problem - 15%
- Clear definition of available solutions - 15%
- Demonstrates an understanding of the project brief - 20%
- Competent use of project presentation software - 10%
- The audio example contains excerpts from the final production - 40%

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Prepare and pitch a concept document and sound design plan in response to a brief for a podcast

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Information Technology Competence

3 Podcast Production

Assessment Type

Portfolio

Task Description

As a sound engineer, it is important to be able to capture, edit and assemble your podcast audio at a high quality so that it can be disseminated through a multitude of online platforms (Soundcloud, Apple Music, Podbean, Simplecast, Captivate etc.) This assessment will ask you to follow the production plan that you created in assessment 1 to record, edit and assemble a podcast. A script for the podcast will be supplied in Moodle.

You will record any required audio for your podcast using Ableton Live Software and other equipment, including microphones, leads and headphones. The podcast will be at least 10 minutes long and no longer than 12 minutes. It should include:

- An introduction sting with music/sound effects and the title of the podcast
- A narrator's voice
- Music relevant to the content matter

- Music can be recorded by you or sourced through a creative commons license
- Sound effects and atmospheric sounds relevant to the content matter
- Sound effects can be recorded by you or sourced through a creative commons license
- The recording should be mixed and 'bounced' according to the submission guidelines (see Moodle for details).

Feedback is an essential part of the recording and mixing process. You will be required to submit milestone tasks throughout the term so that you may receive feedback prior to your final submission. Your submission of these milestones will contribute to 30% of your final grade.

Milestone 1: 2 minutes of recorded dialogue - due week 4

Milestone 2: 5 minutes of dialogue - due week 5

Milestone 3: Musical sketch in context with dialogue - due week 8

Milestone 4: Sound effects in context with dialogue - due week 9

Milestone 5: Full podcast draft - due week 11

Submission details for these milestones will be provided in Moodle.

Assessment Requirements

Your final graded submission will be the delivery of the final music product. Your submission will include:

A stereo bounce - ready for mastering. 24 bit 48kHz

An mp3 'listener'. 320kbp/s

An Ableton Live Set at the final stage of the mix

Assessment Due Date

Week 12 Friday (3 June 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Exam Week Friday (17 June 2022)

Weighting

50%

Assessment Criteria

- Podcast complies with the requirements of the task - 10%
- Audio edits are applied effectively - 10%
- Sound effects and music are applied effectively - 30%
- Mixing: level balance, pan, EQ, compression and effects are implemented effectively - 20%
- Feedback: participation in peer feedback session - 30%

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Produce a podcast which demonstrates competent use of music technology fundamentals in recording, sampling, signal processing and sound design.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Information Technology Competence
- Cross Cultural Competence
- Ethical practice
- Social Innovation

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