



MUSC11379 Audio Recording Techniques

Term 2 - 2021

Profile information current as at 12/08/2025 12:13 am

All details in this unit profile for MUSC11379 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 introductory unit, utilising industry preferred audio design tools, provides training in recording, mixing and mastering music. Students undertaking this unit will plan and undertake a small recording project that requires them to record live instruments and edit, mix and master audio. Students undertaking this unit via flexible delivery may be required to own some computer based recording equipment and software. Students interested in enrolling in the unit should contact the unit coordinator before enrolling.

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 1*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 8

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 - 2021

- 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: 40%

2. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 40%

3. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 20%

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 Student evaluation data

Feedback

More flexibility with the choice of software

Recommendation

Review assessment tasks with a view on providing more flexibility with submission options

Unit Learning Outcomes

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

1. demonstrate an understanding of current recording technologies and equipment
2. demonstrate an ability to design a detailed plan for recording a project
3. demonstrate ability to record and manage a recording project from beginning to end.

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
1 - Written Assessment - 40%	•	•	
2 - Written Assessment - 40%	•		•
3 - Written Assessment - 20%	•		

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	•	•	

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes		
	1	2	3
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 - 40%	•	•	•	•		•				
2 - Written Assessment - 40%	•	•	•	•	•					
3 - Written Assessment - 20%	•	•	•	•		•				

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)
- Audio Interface (See Term-Specific Information)
- A Digital Audio Workstation - Pro Tools recommended (see Term-Specific Information)
- A microphone for recording (see Term-Specific Information)

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

David Reaston Unit Coordinator
d.reaston@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 12 Jul 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Unit Overview - Fundamentals of Audio Recording Equalisation		

Week 2 - 19 Jul 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Panning		

Week 3 - 26 Jul 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Compression		

Week 4 - 02 Aug 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Reverb		

Week 5 - 09 Aug 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Recording: Fundamentals of Sound		

Vacation Week - 16 Aug 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Week 6 - 23 Aug 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Microphone Types and Application		Music Production Tasks Due: Week 6 Monday (23 Aug 2021) 11:45 pm AEST

Week 7 - 30 Aug 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Recording Vocals		

Week 8 - 06 Sep 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Recording Drum Kit/Acoustic Percussion		

Week 9 - 13 Sep 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Recording Guitar		

Week 10 - 20 Sep 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Recording Bass/Keys/DI'ed instruments		

Week 11 - 27 Sep 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Recording Horns/Woodwinds and Recording Acoustic Music Live		

Week 12 - 04 Oct 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Conclusion		

Review/Exam Week - 11 Oct 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
		Recording Assignment Due: Review/Exam Week Wednesday (13 Oct 2021) 11:45 pm AEST Recording Process Discussion Due: Review/Exam Week Wednesday (13 Oct 2021) 11:45 pm AEST

Exam Week - 18 Oct 2021

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

This is a practical unit about audio recording. Because of this, you will need to have access to the following:

- A Digital Audio Workstation (D.A.W.) - *Pro Tools* recommended
- An audio interface
- A microphone, or microphones for recording
- Music/musicians to record

Pro Tools is released by AVID: <https://www.avid.com/>. You will need to use *Pro Tools* (or another approved D.A.W.) in order to complete the first two assessment tasks. If you would like to use another D.A.W. please consult with the Unit Coordinator prior to term, but be aware that all the learning materials for this unit have been created with *Pro Tools*. Please refer to the unit's Moodle website for download links.

Because you will be recording, you also need to have some kind of audio interface that accepts 1/4" jacks and XLR cables (for recording lines and microphones).

Access to a microphone is also crucial, as you must be able to capture sound. During this unit you will learn about different types of microphones as well as microphone technique and placement.

During this unit, you will be required to record some music for Assessment 2. Depending on what you decide to record, you may have to source musicians for this recording.

Assessment Tasks

1 Music Production Tasks

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

You will be required to complete five short music production tasks in a Digital Audio Workstation (D.A.W.) (*Pro Tools* recommended) using specified raw, unmixed audio tracks. These tasks require you to manipulate:

- Equalisation
- Panning
- Compression
- Reverb
- Balance

In addition, you will also be required to write an 1,000 word essay (200 words per task) discussing your application of each tool/plugin used, and the reasoning behind your mixing decisions.

Assessment submission and presentation

You must submit:

- Five *Pro Tools* sessions (including Audio Files) (one for each task)*
- 1,000 word** essay as a Microsoft Word Document (.docx) which must use 12 point Times New Roman font, 1.5 spacing for the body of the assignment, include your name and student number, and adhere to the CQUniversity APA Style Guide.

*If using another approved D.A.W., you will need to submit audio stems for each task instead of *Pro Tools* sessions. If the session consists of multiple tracks, you will need to bounce each track separately and submit the individual tracks as well as the Master. Your essay will need to include screenshots/images of all your settings in order to meet the assessment criteria.

**The word count is considered from the first word of the introduction to the last word of the conclusion. It excludes the cover page, abstract, contents page, reference page and appendices. It includes in-text references and direct quotations.

Assessment Due Date

Week 6 Monday (23 Aug 2021) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Week 9 Monday (13 Sept 2021)

Weighting

40%

Assessment Criteria

Task 1 (Vocal)

- Application and effective use of equalisation (5%)
- Application and effective use of compression (5%)
- Application and effective use of reverb (5%)
- Appropriate balance and effective use of panning (5%)

Task 2 (Bass)

- Application and effective use of equalisation (5%)
- Application and effective use of compression (5%)

Task 3 (Guitar)

- Application and effective use of equalisation (5%)
- Application and effective use of compression (5%)
- Application and effective use of reverb (5%)
- Appropriate balance and effective use of panning (5%)

Task 4 (Keyboard)

- Application and effective use of equalisation (5%)
- Application and effective use of compression (5%)
- Application and effective use of reverb (5%)

Task 5 (Drums)

- Application and effective use of equalisation (5%)
- Application and effective use of compression (5%)
- Application and effective use of reverb (5%)
- Appropriate balance and effective use of panning (5%)

Discussion

- Discussion is thoughtful and considered (10%)
- Discussion uses correct spelling, grammar and punctuation (5%)

Referencing Style

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

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- demonstrate an understanding of current recording technologies and equipment
- demonstrate an ability to design a detailed plan for recording a project

Graduate Attributes

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

2 Recording Assignment

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

You are to record and mix a song of your own choice.

- The recording should be approximately 3-4 minutes long
- The recording must have a minimum of three different instruments in addition to at least one vocal track (for example: Piano, electric bass, acoustic guitar and vocals)
- Each instrument must be recorded on a separate track.

You may record all parts separately to a click track or multi-track everything. However, if you decide to multi-track, every instrument must have its own channel. A reasonable amount of 'bleed' is acceptable, but too much and it will hinder your ability to mix effectively.

You must submit:

- An audio file (.mp3, .wav etc.) of the final mastered project
- The *Pro Tools* session for the song (including all the Audio Files)*

*If using another approved D.A.W., you will need to submit audio stems of your session instead of a *Pro Tools* session. Each individual track will need to be bounced/exported twice: once with the plug-ins engaged, and another without (the raw track). Your essay component (Assessment 3) will need to include screenshots/images of all your settings in order to meet the assessment criteria (mix and edit windows, and each plug-in used).

Assessment Due Date

Review/Exam Week Wednesday (13 Oct 2021) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Assessment will be returned at the end of term

Weighting

40%

Assessment Criteria

Recording

- Recording demonstrates knowledge of appropriate microphone placement (35%)
- Tracks are recorded at an appropriate level (20%)
- Audio signal is clean on all tracks (15%)

Mixing

- Balance is achieved throughout the recording (6%)
- Equalisation is well-implemented and effective (6%)
- Panning is well-implemented and effective (6%)
- Compression is well-implemented and effective (6%)
- Reverb is well-implemented and effective (6%)

Referencing Style

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

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- demonstrate an understanding of current recording technologies and equipment
- demonstrate ability to record and manage a recording project from beginning to end.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Team Work

3 Recording Process Discussion

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description**Minimum 1000 words***

In addition to the finished track in Assessment 2, you must submit a recording process overview discussing the recording process from start to finish.

You must include technical information such as:

- Microphones used
- Microphone placement
- Effects used
- D.I.'s used
- Audio interface used
- Plugins used

In this document, you must embed photographs from your recording process giving clear indication of how each instrument was mic'ed and the thought process that went into the mic placement. Discuss any recording techniques that you attempted, but didn't have the desired effect. If you are using another approved D.A.W. besides Pro Tools, you will need to include screenshots/images of all your settings (mix and edit windows, and each plug-in used).

You must also discuss the creative elements of the recording process including:

- Challenges you faced recording and mixing/mastering
- Why you chose certain microphones for certain instruments
- How you created balance and space in the mix
- How you used effects

Assessment submission and presentation

Your assessment must be submitted as a Microsoft Word Document (.docx) with photos embedded (do not submit photos separately), and must use 12 point Times New Roman font, 1.5 spacing for the body of the assignment, include your name and student number, and adhere to the CQUniversity APA Style Guide.

*The word count is considered from the first word of the introduction to the last word of the conclusion. It excludes the cover page, abstract, contents page, reference page and appendices. It includes in-text references and direct quotations.

Assessment Due Date

Review/Exam Week Wednesday (13 Oct 2021) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Assessment will be returned at the end of term

Weighting

20%

Assessment Criteria**Technical Discussion**

- Technical information is relevant and complete (30%)
- Clear photographs have been provided for each mic'ed instrument showing application of microphone placement (15%)

Creative Discussion

- Discussion is thoughtful and considered (30%)

General

- Accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar; clarity of writing style (20%)
- Meeting delivery requirements (presentation, word count, style guide) (5%)

Referencing Style

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

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

To be submitted on the Moodle site.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- demonstrate an understanding of current recording technologies and equipment

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