

STUDIO INFORMATION, SEM 2 2015

BCOMM MEDIA PROGRAM (BP221)

This information is for students enrolled in either **COMM2625 Media 2** or **COMM267 Media 4** in semester 2, 2015.

This is a lengthy information sheet but all of it is important. Seriously, please read the whole thing.

Updates and information about these courses/the studios is regularly posted to this website: www.mediafactory.org.au/studios and sent to your student email. Please monitor both. You can contact brian.morris@rmit.edu.au (Studio Coordinator) with any specific inquiries.

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1. WHAT HAPPENS IN MEDIA 2 AND MEDIA 4?

In semester two approximately 180 students in the Media program (as well as some from the Professional Communication program), who are enrolled in the core courses Media 2 or Media 4, go in to the **studio pool**. Each student in that pool will be allocated to **one of the ten available studios** for semester two. Each studio has a different theme and research question as a focus. All studios investigate that research focus through the of making media objects, the details of which are specified through Project Briefs that are the assessment tasks for the studio and course. Studios contain a mix of students from different year levels. Each studio has a limited number of places (usually 20).

The studio is your course for the semester (either Media 2 or Media 4). **Each studio will have a 2 hour AND a 3 hour class on different days of each week** (i.e. 5 contact hours total per week for this 24 point course). Each studio will use those class times and days in different ways. You will be expected to spend an extra 13 hours per week on studio work (e.g. reading, researching and making) outside of the scheduled contact hours.

2. HOW WILL I BE ALLOCATED TO A SPECIFIC STUDIO?

Studio allocations are overseen by **Brian Morris (Media Program Director & Studio Coordinator)**, and organised through an **online ballot system** accessed via **www.mediafactory.org/au/studios**. The ballot will be **open for five days only** from **Thursday 11 June in Week 14 of this first semester** (see key dates below) .

Your ballot preference is based on the Studio description booklet which contains a 1-2 page overview of the studio (this booklet will be emailed to students enrolled in Media 2 + Media 4 and posted online at the mediafactory website from Thursday 11 June). The booklet will contain details of the days and times of each studio as well as any special equipment requirements (most commonly these may require students to have access to a specific software program).

Studio leaders will also make a brief five minute presentation on **Thursday 11 June from 11am-12pm in 80.2.7** as part of the broader Media Program Semester One Presentation and Exhibition day.

3. HOW DOES THE BALLOT WORK?

The ballot asks you to express your preferences (from 1-3) for the studios you are most interested in. There is no guarantee that you will get your first, second or third choice. But we will use the preference information to do the best we can in allocating students to preferred studios. But we can't necessarily predict or control who will want to do what in a given semester. Fortunately you are a bunch of quirky individuals with different career interests, reasons, tastes and so on.

Please accept from the start that some semesters you will be more fortunate than others in terms of getting your first, second or third preference. And remember that most of you will complete four studios over the course of your degree (Media 6 is not studio-based). **If you don't complete the ballot when it is open we will allocate you where there is room.**

4. TIMETABLE CLASHES

The Studio description booklet available on Thurs June 11 will specify the class times for each studio.

University timetabling processes and policies (outside of the Program and School control) mean that we can't prevent a small number of timetable clashes between studios and contextual courses and electives.

***It is your responsibility NOT to select a studio in your preferences that clashes with a lecture (or screening) for a context or core course you are also undertaking*.**

Existing Clashes [*UPDATED 10 JUNE]:

At this stage we are aware of a few clashes between a small number of studio times and a small number of contextual studies courses. These details will be specified at the time of the ballot for you to cross-check in terms of your planned enrolment.

- Asian Cinemas screening (Thurs 2.30-5.20) clashes with
 - Specific to Site (Robbie Rowlands)
 - On the Frame (Daniel Binns)
- Asian Cinemas lecture (Fri 11.30-12.20) clashes with
 - Film 3 (II) (Robin Plunkett)
- Television Cultures lecture (Wed 3.30-5.20) clashes with
 - Radio's New Wave (Kyla Brettle)
 - 'It's Not Rocket Surgery' (Liam Ward)
- Reading Sex and Race lecture (Mon 11.30-12.20) clashes with
 - Film 3 (I) (Paul Ritchard)
- ALL PROF COMM - Interdisciplinary Communication Project lecture (Mon 1.30-2.20) clashes with
 - Writing for Film, Filming for Writing (Jasmine Roth & Paul Ritchard)

Electives:

If the elective you have selected clashes with the studio you are allocated then you will have to change the elective. Often you will be able to take it later in your degree (e.g. currently Media students have 5 different School elective spots in their degree).

5. 'THE JUDGES DECISION IS FINAL' - NO SWAPS AFTER THE BALLOT ALLOCATION

No studio swaps are possible after the official allocation. You are not permitted to reassign your studio within the Student Timetabling System. This will be monitored closely.

Studio Leaders can not let you in to their studio so please don't ask them. Only the Studio Coordinator, Brian Morris, can change allocations in *exceptional* circumstances. These

circumstances do not include any non-University work commitments you have, the length of your commute, and so on etc.

If you enrol in Media 2 or Media 4 after the ballot date your allocation will be decided by the Studio Coordinator.

6. KEY DATES

Thurs, 11 June: Studio Description booklet published and online ballot opens. Studio leaders will also speak briefly in person about their classes

Tues, 16 June: Ballot closes at midnight

Friday, 19 June: Studio allocations posted on website and emailed to enrolled students

Fri, 10 July: Student Timetable System opens for School of M&C students

Wed, 15 July: Full Studio Guide available on Blackboard in Media 2 and Media 4

Mon, 20 July: Semester Two classes begin

Thurs, 29 October : Semester Two Studio Presentations and Exhibitions - participation & attendance required (last day of semester in terms of your Media course)

7. SOME CONSIDERATIONS ... AS YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR PREFERENCES

-You will get to complete more than one studio in your degree. Don't feel that there is only one studio for you. Be open to being surprised about what you might enjoy and benefit learning about. You can't guess everything that is coming from a course title, description and outline.

Value diversity in your degree experience as much as specialisation (just like employers).

8. WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT PAST STUDIOS AND HOW THEY RUN?

Check www.mediafactory.org.au/studios - but do note that we've only been running studios in this form since the beginning of 2015. Studios are not guaranteed to be repeated every semester or year (but we do expect a number will be repeated in a pretty similar version each year). You should also come to the public end of semester studio presentations and exhibitions held in Week 14 to see and hear about the kinds of work students have been doing.

Assessment

All studios in semester two will share the same overarching assessment structure:

- Project Brief 1(0%) - due Wk 2
- Project Brief 2 (15%) - due Wk 4
- Project Brief 3 (25%) - due Wk 7
- Project Brief 4 (40%) - due Wk 13
- Reflective Portfolio (20%) - due Wk 13
- Program Exhibition + Presentation - Wk 14

-All studios involve some assessment based around collaboration given that this is a fundamental part of the vast majority of media-related work. Embrace that.

All studios are required to be a mix of theory and practice. The Media Program philosophy is that making and thinking theorising should be integrated. We don't do one without the other.

9. PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION STUDENTS PLEASE NOTE ...

If you change your mind about your specialisation (and enrol in Media 2 or Media 4) after the ballot period you will not have a choice in the studio you are allocated in to. Allocation will be decided by the Studio Coordinator. This is in the interest of equity and fairness in relation to students who were enrolled correctly, did ballot and didn't get their first preference.

[End]