

STUDIO INFORMATION, SEM 1 2016

BCOMM MEDIA PROGRAM (BP221)

This information is for students enrolled in either **COMM2625 Media 3** or **COMM267 Media 5** in semester 1, 2016.

Updates and information about these courses/the studios are 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 2015) with any specific inquiries.

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1. WHAT HAPPENS IN MEDIA 3 AND MEDIA 5?

In semester one 2016 approximately 230+ students in the Media program (as well as some from the Professional Communication program), who are enrolled in the core courses Media 3 or Media 5, go in to the **studio pool**. Each student in that pool will be allocated to **one of the eleven 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 3 or Media 5). **Most studios will generally 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 2015)**, and organised through an **online ballot system** accessed via **www.mediafactory.org/au/studios**. The ballot will be **open for six days only** from **Thursday 29th October in Week 14 of this second 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 out and posted online at the mediafactory website from Thursday 29th October). Studio leaders will also make a brief five minute presentation on **Thursday 29th October from 2.30pm-3.30pm in 80.4.11** as part of the broader Media Program Semester Two Presentation and Exhibition day.

3. HOW DOES THE BALLOT WORK?

The ballot is a simple google form accessible at the url mentioned above that 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. (It's a new system ... but in the previous semester 87% of those who balloted did get their first choice).

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

At this stage the draft timetable for 2016 has been delayed and not released .

University timetabling processes and policies (which are outside of the Media Program and School control) means that there are likely to be a small number of timetable clashes between studios and contextual courses and electives. **Please check your timetable after the release for studio/lecture clashes (required context courses only) in December/January.**

Students with clashes between their studio time and any lectures/screenings of core courses (i.e. context courses) should write to brian.morris@rmit.edu.au in the week 1st-17th February 2016, just before Student Timetabling System opens, to request a change to their next studio preference. Timetable clashes will not be processed before these dates.

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 except in the case of legitimate timetable clashes (as detailed above). 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 3 or Media 5 after the ballot date your allocation will be decided by the Studio Coordinator.

6. KEY DATES

Thurs, 29 Oct: Studio Description booklet published and online ballot opens. Studio leaders will also speak briefly in person about their classes - 2.30-3.30pm in 80.4.11.

Tues, Nov 3: Studio Ballot closes at midnight

Mon, Nov 9: Studio allocations posted on website and emailed to enrolled students

Fri, 11 Dec: University 2016 Timetable publication

Mon 1st-Wed 17th Feb: Period in which you can advise brian.morris@rmit.edu.au of any timetable clashes (lectures/screenings ONLY of compulsory/context courses)

The Studio Coordinator will check enrolments in Media 3 and Media 5 during the late December-January period. If you are not enrolled in one of these courses you lose your studio place.

Fri, 19 Feb: Student Timetable System opens for School of M&C students

Mon, 29 Feb: Semester One classes begin

Thurs, 16 June : Semester One 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 do).

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

Check www.mediafactory.org.au/studios for information about past 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 (same day as the studio pitches from staff) to see and hear about the kinds of work students have been doing.

Assessment

All studios in 2015 shared 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
- Program Exhibition + Presentation (20%) - Wk 14

-We might make some small changes to this structure following our end-of-2015 course review.

-**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 (i.e. Media/PR/Journalism/Advertising) after the ballot [and/or Nov-Dec enrolment period] you will not have the same degree of choice in a studio as students who did ballot. Allocation will be at the discretion of the Studio Coordinator. This is in the interest of equity and fairness in relation to students who did enrol/did ballot/did/didn't get their first preference.

[End]