

MESS Professional Development Course 2026

Course Overview & Selection Criteria



This document details key information regarding MESS's Professional Development course, including course content, structure, and key dates. There is also information on the application and assessment process.

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COURSE OVERVIEW

COURSE OUTLINE

Presented by established artists and industry professionals, the MESS Professional Development Program consists of 12 weekly classes and a 13th week is dedicated to showcasing participants' work in class listening sessions. The classes teach participants various skills that can be further honed and refined in these self-directed studio sessions, where they will have access to the extraordinary MESS collection of electronic instruments and resources.

AIMS

This course is for artists with an established practice looking to:

- consolidate and deepen their craft and technique,
- to advance or pivot their existing creative process and methods,
- pursue opportunities for support in developing and presenting work,
- invigorate their creative imagination with new sources of inspiration and connection.

OUTCOMES

All participants will be expected to complete the following outcomes:

- Participation in the Week 6 and Week 13 presentation seminars for peer reflection and feedback on their work. They will be encouraged to “show their work” via the display of DAW sessions, etc, to whatever extent possible based on their process.
- Course participants will produce a new original sound/music stereo work of short duration (2-5 mins) to be posted online in a public place by MESS (e.g. SoundCloud).
- All participants will be asked to complete a short written piece reflecting on the articulated benefit outlined in their submission application and also complete a brief survey on the course to provide MESS with feedback to help us refine and improve our workshop offerings.
- Upon completing the course, participants will receive a Letter of Completion from MESS.

PLACES & FEES

This course is strictly limited to 12 participants in total. Places in the course are secured by application only. This course is offered free of charge to successful applicants.

PREREQUISITES

Participants should have an established (emerging to mid-career) practice and a working knowledge of creating and producing electronic sound and music. This course is unsuitable for beginners. Participants must be over 18 years of age.

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EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

All participants must be self-sufficient with the essential tools required to produce electronic sound and music independently outside of course hours. At a minimum, this means a laptop computer running a contemporary music/audio software platform. For workshop sessions at MESS, you are welcome to bring your laptop, sound card, or portable sound recorder to capture the sounds you create. MESS has all other equipment needed for in-studio work, such as headphones, cables, etc.

STRUCTURE & DELIVERY

Classes run weekly and begin May 11 2026, concluding August 10, 2026. Each class runs from 6.00 pm to approximately 9.00 pm. Weeks 1, 2, and 3 will run from 6.00pm to 10.00pm to include a studio induction in the MESS Studio. Please note that there is no class on Monday 8 June due to the Public Holiday.

All classes are held in person on Monday evenings at the MESS Studio (The Atrium, Fed Square). Find information on getting to and accessing MESS [here](#). Week 12 will be held off-site at a studio in North Coburg.

The course will utilise Google Classroom to share notes and resources where available and communicate with the class. We are unable to record classes or host classes online.

MESS STUDIO ACCESS

The course also includes 12 weeks of access to the MESS Studio. Participants can book 1 x 4-hour individual self-directed studio session per week during the course (12 sessions across the course period) with full access to the MESS Collection. Utilising this access is strongly encouraged to help facilitate a greater depth of understanding as well as support the completion of the course outcomes.

COURSE CONTACTS & STAFF

Please reach out to school@mess.foundation if you have any questions regarding the course.

Course Director (Curriculum & Content):
Byron Scullin byron@mess.foundation

Course Coordinator (Administration & General Enquiries):
Tess Monaghan school@mess.foundation

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COURSE OUTLINE & DATES

Please note this schedule may be subject to change

Week 1	Monday, May 11, 2026 (6pm - 10pm)	<i>Electronic Sound Fundamentals : consolidating and outlining your knowledge about electronic sound creation.</i>
Week 2	Monday, May 18, 2026 (6pm - 10pm)	<i>Analog Synthesis Automation: how to use computers to control and manipulate analogue machines.</i>
Week 3	Monday, May 25, 2026 (6pm - 10pm)	<i>Eurorack Modular Synthesis: a survey of the tools and techniques used in contemporary synthesis & sound design.</i>
Week 4	Monday, Jun 1, 2026 (6pm - 9pm)	<i>Forms & Structures: an overview of the methods used in musical composition to organise and arrange sonic material</i>
	Monday, Jun 8, 2026	<i>Public Holiday – No Class</i>
Week 5	Monday, Jun 15, 2026 (6pm - 9pm)	<i>Generating passive income: licensing and royalties</i>
Week 6	Monday, Jun 22, 2026 (6pm - 9pm)	<i>Presentation seminar of participant's work in progress</i>
Week 7	Monday, Jun 29, 2026 (6pm - 9pm)	<i>Creating opportunities: Fundraising and grant application for electronic sound & music artists</i>
Week 8	Monday, Jul 6, 2026 (6pm - 9pm)	<i>Immersion: Creating work for multichannel diffusion and installation contexts.</i>
Week 9	Monday, Jul 13, 2026 (6pm - 9pm)	<i>Electronic sound and music events: inside the curatorial process of how festivals are programmed</i>
Week 10	Monday, Jul 20, 2026 (6pm - 9pm)	<i>Performing with Electronics : Methods for Creating and Delivering Live Electronic Music & Sound</i>
Week 11	Monday, Jul 27, 2026 (6pm - 9pm)	<i>Working with Vision: Music and Sound creation for Screens</i>
Week 12	Monday, Aug 3, 2026 (6pm - 9pm)	<i>Finalling: polishing and finishing your work</i>
Week 13	Monday, Aug 10, 2026 (6pm - 9pm)	<i>Final presentation of participant's work</i>



APPLICATION & SELECTION CRITERIA

APPLICATION

All potential students will be assessed by application.

As part of the application, you will complete three (3) short writing passages to the best of your ability. You should also submit some examples of your work. Each section is focussed on the following topics:

- **Experience:** Tell us about yourself and any experience creating electronic sound/music.
- **Interest:** Tell us about particular interest areas or goals in electronic sound/music production.
- **Benefit:** Let us know how the MESS Professional Development course will benefit you.
- **Examples:** If you have some examples of your work, we'd like to hear them.

An assessment rubric can be viewed at the end of this document.

Please note: Unfortunately, we cannot offer feedback on unsuccessful applications due to the number of applications we typically receive

KEY DATES

- Applications close: 6:00 pm, Monday, 23rd March 2026
- Course commences: 6:00 pm, Monday, 11th May 2026



ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

	5	4	3	2	1	0
Experience	<i>The candidate has a level of experience highly suited to this course.</i>	<i>The candidate has a level of experience that is well suited to this course.</i>	<i>The candidate has a level of experience suited to this course.</i>	<i>The candidate has experience that could be better suited to this course.</i>	<i>The candidate has experience that appears unsuitable for this course.</i>	<i>The candidate did not provide a suitable explanation of their level of experience.</i>
Benefit	<i>It was highly evident that this course would benefit the candidate.</i>	<i>It was clear that this course would benefit the candidate.</i>	<i>This course would benefit this candidate.</i>	<i>This course might benefit this candidate.</i>	<i>This course may not benefit this candidate.</i>	<i>The candidate did not articulate how this course would benefit them.</i>
Interest	<i>This candidate's interest in and engagement with electronic sound and music would make them ideal for the course.</i>	<i>This candidate's interest in and engagement with electronic sound and music would make them highly suitable for the course.</i>	<i>This candidate's interest in and engagement with electronic sound and music would make them suitable for the course.</i>	<i>The candidate's interest in and engagement with electronic sound and music might make them suitable for the course.</i>	<i>This candidate's interest in and engagement with electronic sound and music was uncertain, and it appears they may be unsuitable for this course.</i>	<i>The candidate did not show an interest and engagement with electronic sound and music.</i>

Note: Examples of applicants' work provide context for the application. Applications are assessed across both the written submission and the examples of work.