

Recording Videos in Opencast Studio in Amathuba

Last updated: 1 August 2024

Introduction

Teaching videos combine audio and visuals. Types of videos include screencasts, narrated PowerPoint slides, lecture recordings, and webcam footage. However you record your video, we encourage you to make short ones, for example, one might use a series of two or three 15-minute lecture videos as an alternative to a 45-minute lecture. Consider adding an activity, such as replying to a quick forum prompt, between the presentation of content, which can also allow you to track progress.

Why would you use it?

Lecture videos can add value to the teaching and learning experience. Well-executed lecture videos can foster student-lecturer connection and engage students in the course material. Lecture videos can be used to explain a particular concept or set of concepts, clarify assessment instructions, demonstrate procedural actions on a computer screen, or simply to make important course content more exciting. Students can also use simple tools to create videos as an alternative to class presentations.

What can you use?

You are now able to record a screencast or webcam video directly via Amathuba. You can find this functionality in the **Lecture Videos** tool. The tool links you to Opencast Studio, where you can record, review, and upload your video straight to your Amathuba site.

How can you use it?

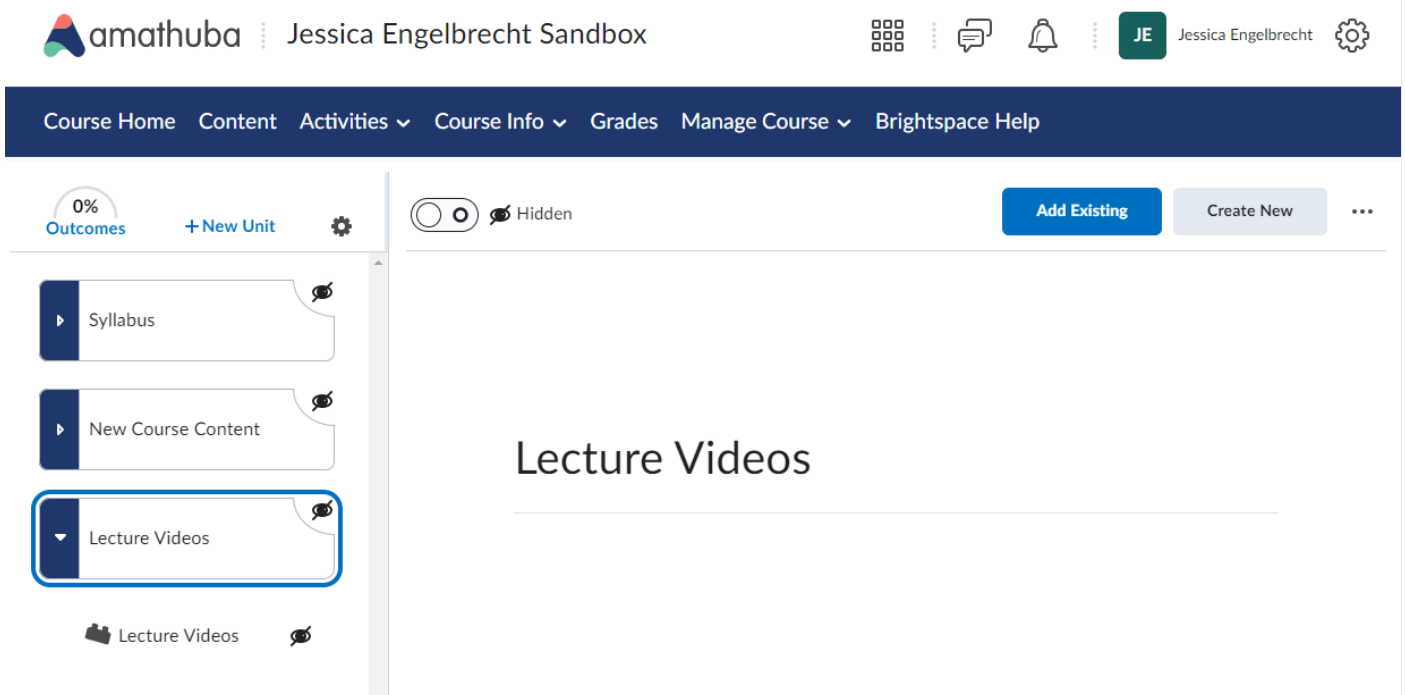
You will first need to add the Lecture Videos tool to your Amathuba site:

1. Navigate to the **UCT ServiceNow Service Portal**.
2. Type “lecture recording” or “lecture videos” into the search bar in the centre of the page.
3. Click the hyperlink titled **Request to add the Lecture Video Tool to an Amathuba Site**.
4. Complete the form and click **Request**.

You can also request for previous year's lecture videos to be shared, for example if you have used these in the Content tool. In step 3 above, the form is titled **Request to share previous lecture videos across Amathuba sites**.

Once the tool has been added, you can start using Lecture Videos.

The Lecture Videos tool will appear in the left-hand menu in **Content**



The screenshot shows the Amathuba interface for a course titled "Jessica Engelbrecht Sandbox". The top navigation bar includes "Course Home", "Content", "Activities", "Course Info", "Grades", "Manage Course", and "Brightspace Help". The left-hand menu is expanded to show "Outcomes" (0%), "+ New Unit", "Syllabus", "New Course Content", and "Lecture Videos" (highlighted with a blue border). Below the menu is a "Lecture Videos" icon. The main content area displays "Lecture Videos" with a "Hidden" toggle and buttons for "Add Existing" and "Create New".

Click on **Lecture Videos**

0% Outcomes + New Unit

- Syllabus
- New Course Content
- Lecture Videos
- Lecture Videos

Hidden

Add Existing Create New

RECORDINGS MANAGE SETTINGS

Latest Recordings

Download Feedback

All Recordings (0)

Filter Recordings: Search by Title/Presenter Select Start and End Date Clear Filters

Title	Presenter	Date
No recordings published yet		

Go to the **Manage** tab and click the **Record** button.

amathuba Jessica Engelbrecht Sandbox

Course Home Content Activities Course Info Grades Manage Course Brightspace Help

0% Outcomes + New Unit

- Syllabus
- New Course Content
- Lecture Videos
- Lecture Videos

Hidden

Add Existing Create New

RECORDINGS MANAGE SETTINGS

Manage Recordings

Record Upload Schedule Timetable Scheduling

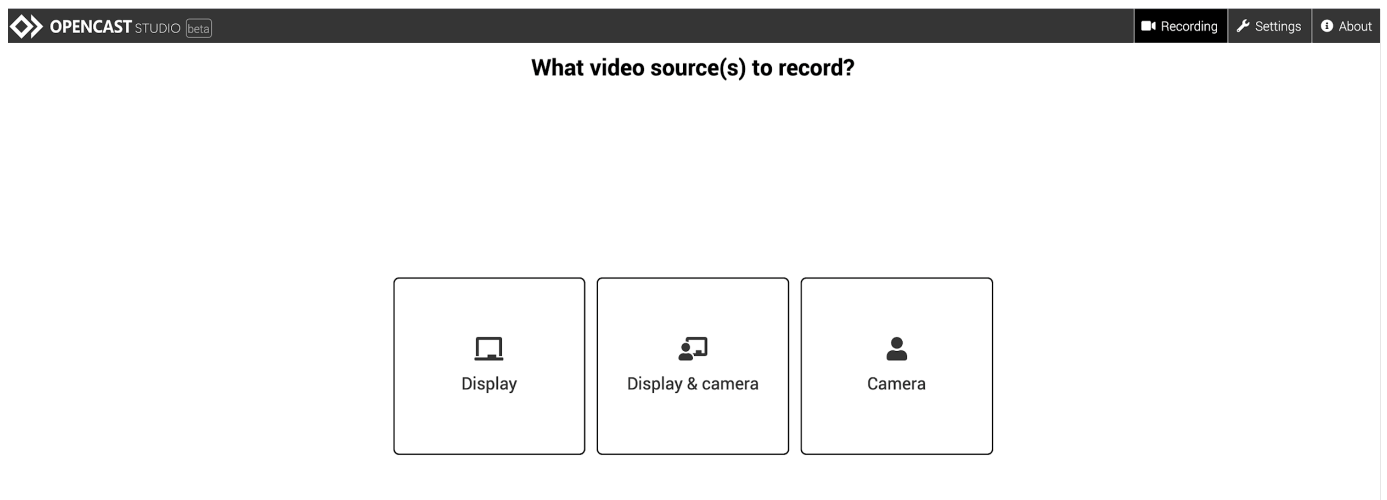
Weekday Status: All Search by Title/Lecturer/Venue

Time Range Date Range

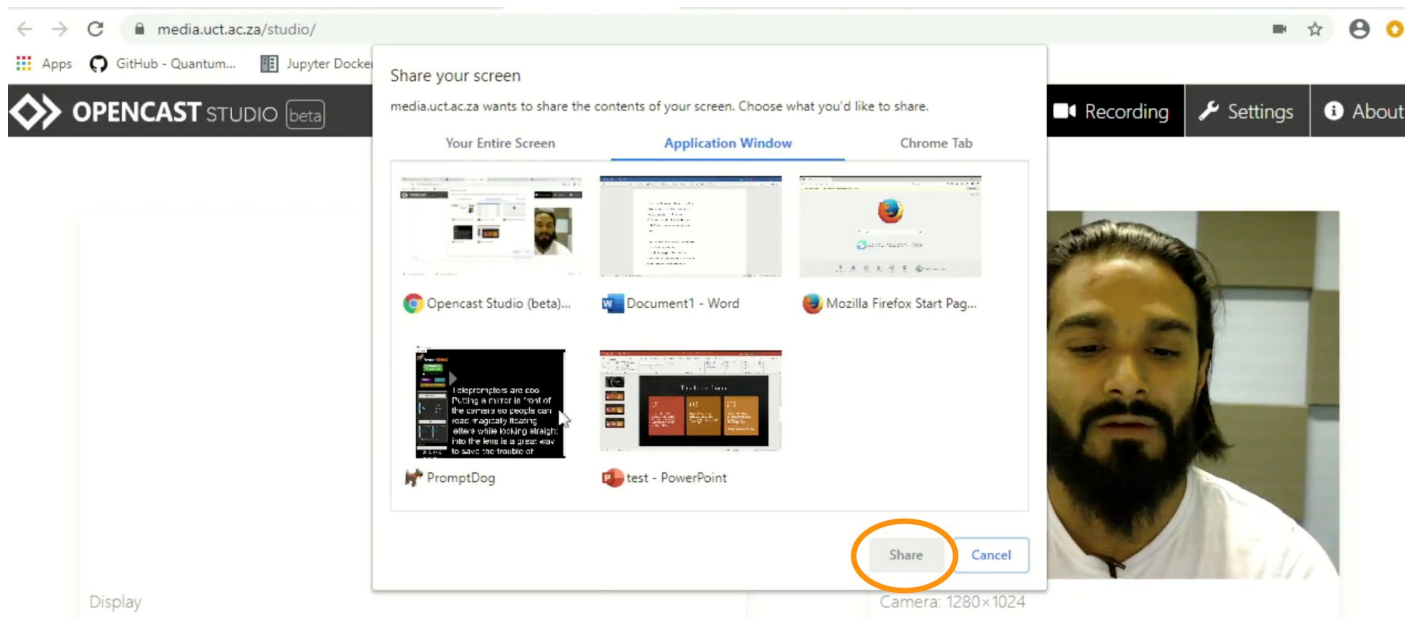
Title	Presenter	Date	Venue	Status	Manage
No Recordings					

You will be taken to the **Opencast Studio**, where you have three recording options:

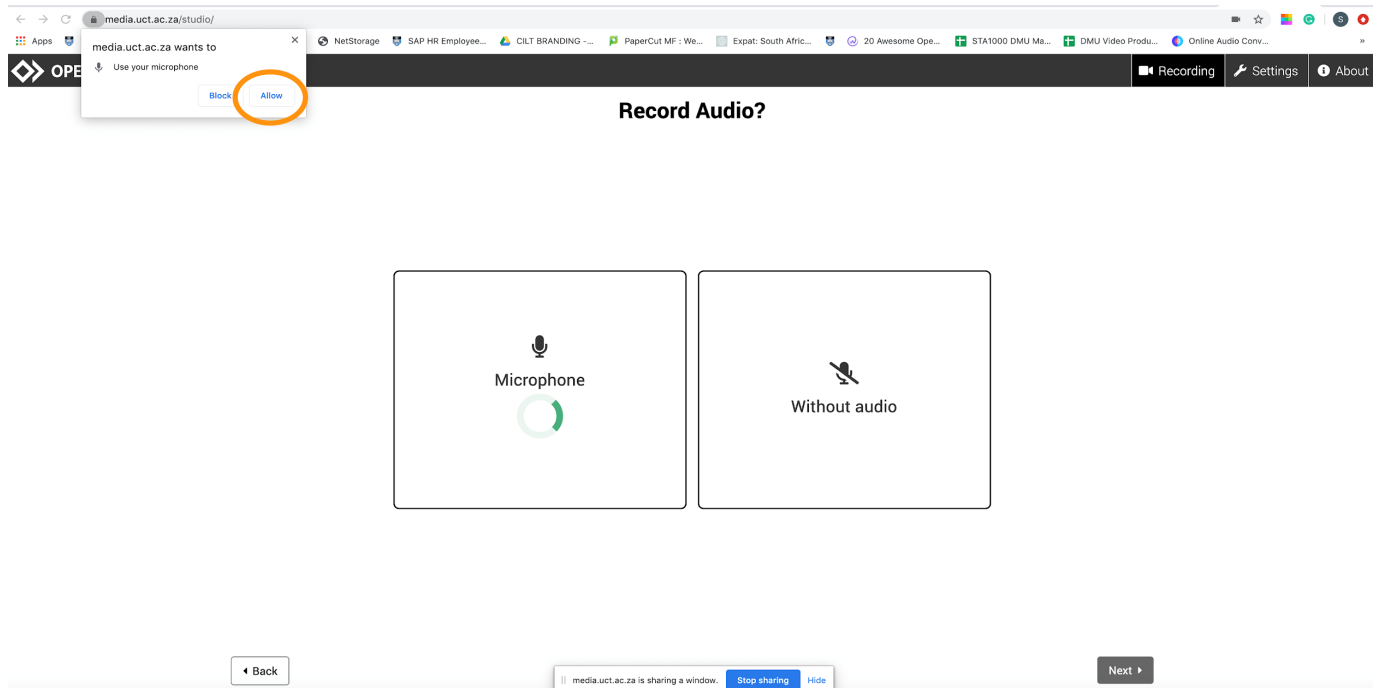
- **Display:** records your screen only
- **Display & camera:** records your screen and yourself via your webcam
- **Camera:** records you via your webcam



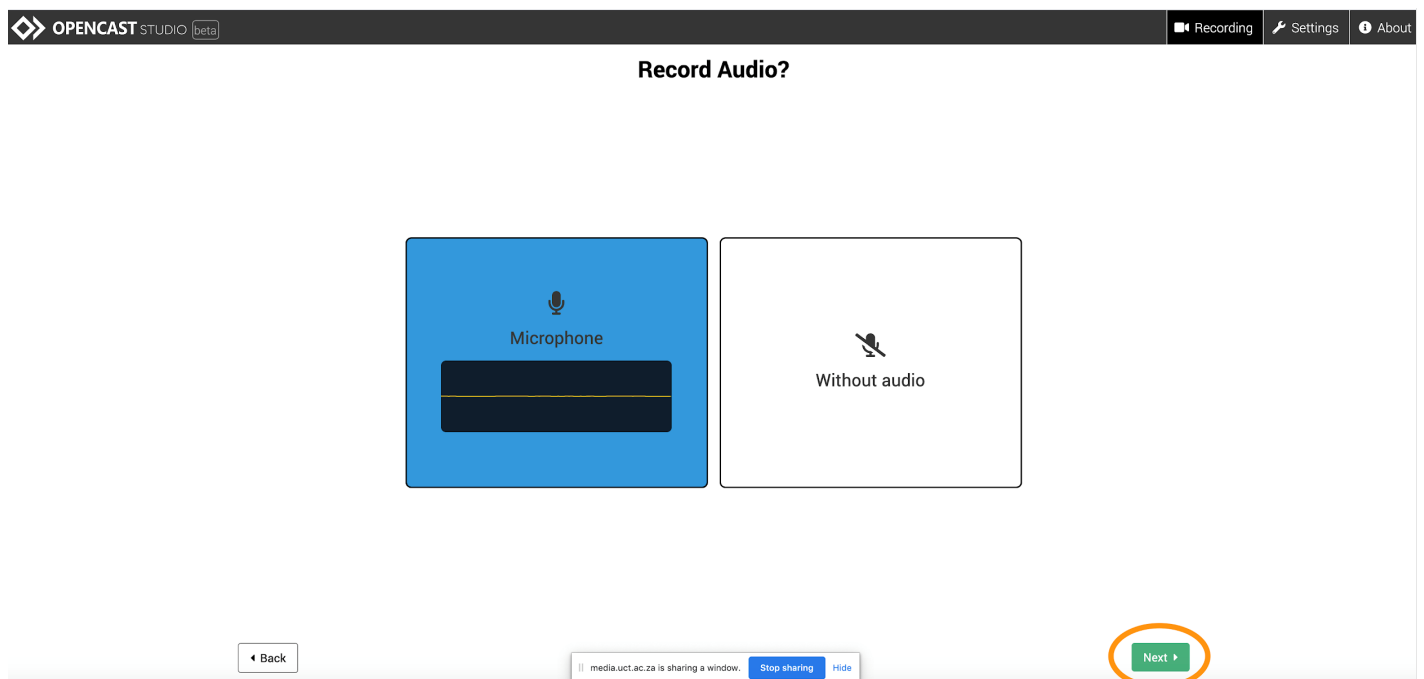
In the recording option that you chose, select the screen that you want to share (if you chose **Display** or **Display & camera**).



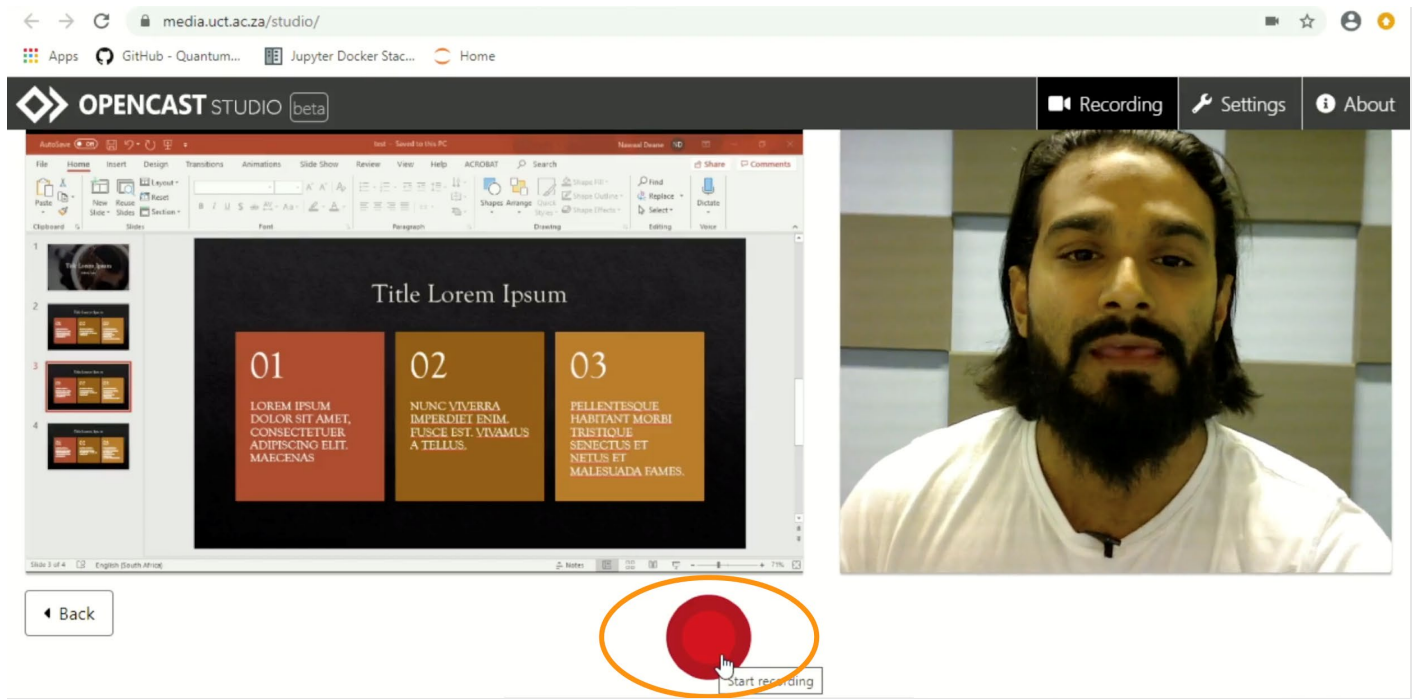
You can select to record with a **Microphone** or **Without audio** ('Without audio' would be selected if you are recording a screencast that doesn't require audio). Allow the program to access your microphone by selecting **Allow** in the pop-up box and then clicking **Next**.



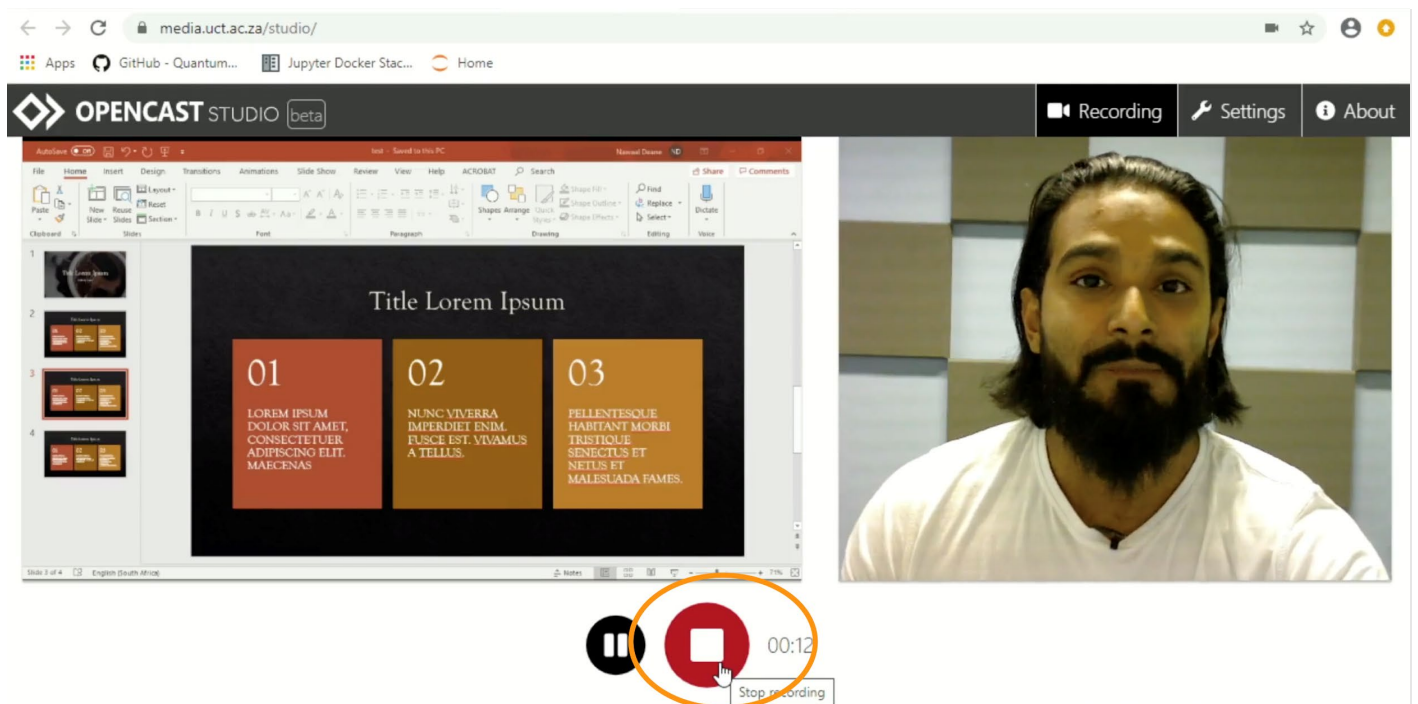
If you select **Microphone**, OpenCast Studio will automatically test the sound. Click **Next**.



Click the red **Start recording** button to start recording your video. Do a test take first to check the sound and camera.



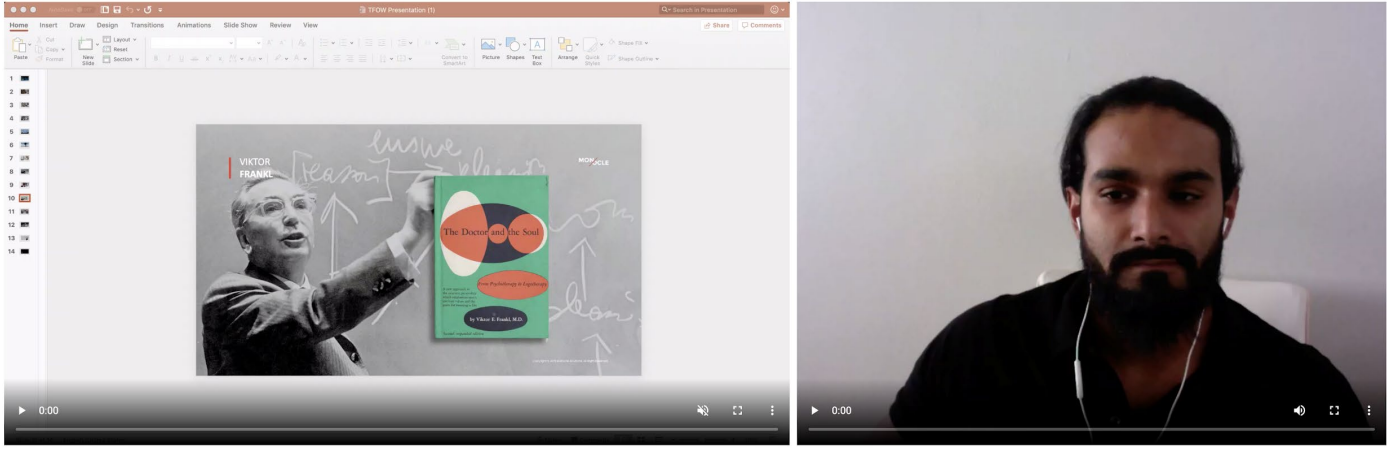
Click the **Stop recording** button to end your recording.



You can watch your recording and decide to **Discard and record again** or click **Next** if you are happy with it.

OPENCAST STUDIO (beta) Recording Settings About

Happy with your recording?

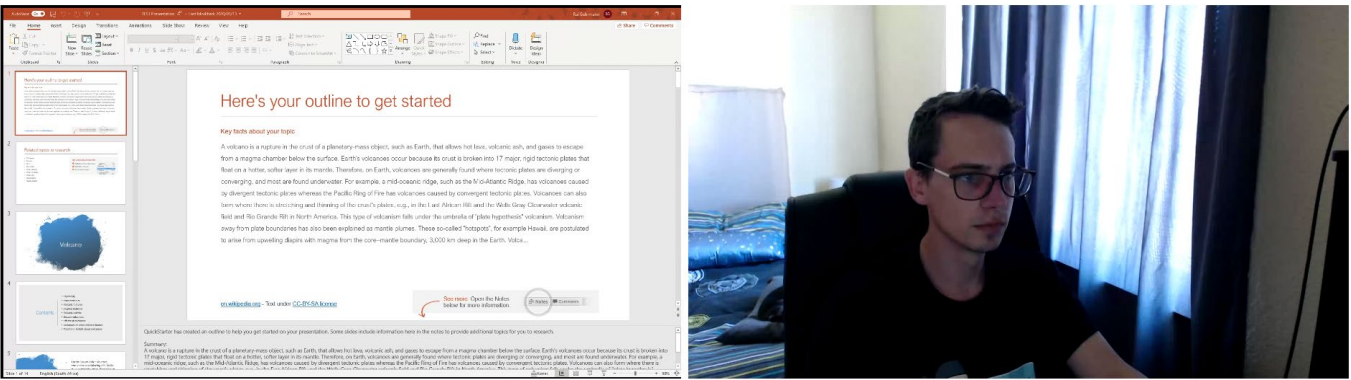


◀ Discard and record again Next ▶

You are able to trim the beginning and end of the video recording if required. Navigate to the start time, click the **scissors icon** to the left of the play button to cut. Navigate to the end time, click the **scissors icon** to the right of the play button to cut. Click **Next** once you are finished trimming the start and end of the recording.

OPENCAST STUDIO Recording Settings About

Happy with your recording?

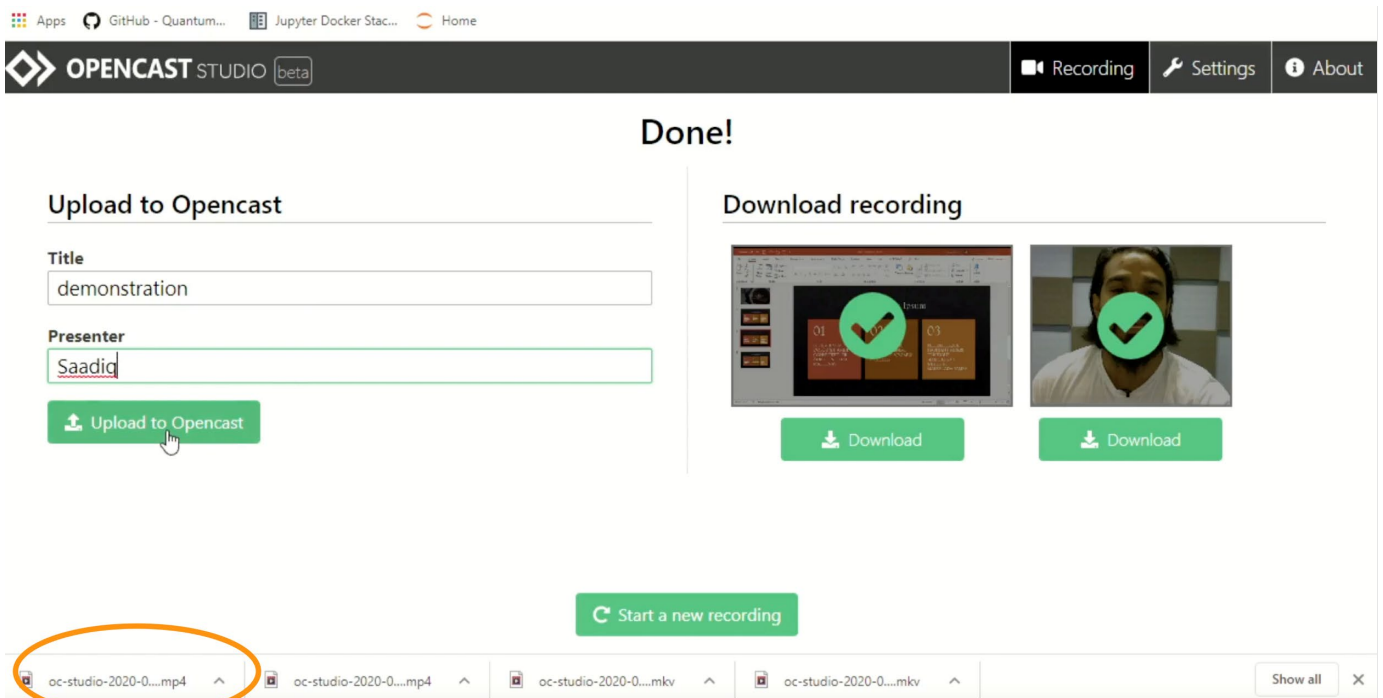


Start: 00:22 [scissors icon] [play icon] [scissors icon] End: 03:49

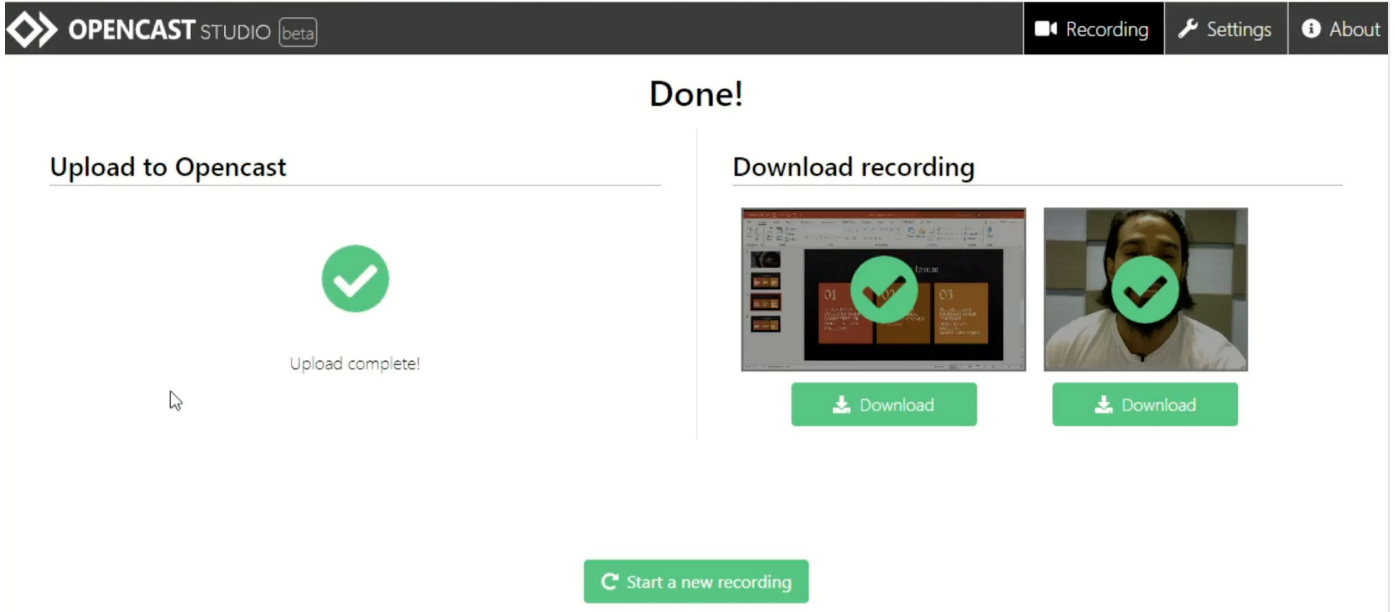
◀ Discard and record again Next ▶

Give your video a relevant title and add your name. It is also advisable that you **Download** your recordings as a precautionary measure should you have connectivity issues. Once you've done that, you can click on **Upload to Opencast**.

Please note that the **downloaded files will not include the edits** which you made in the previous step, but the **edits will remain when uploading to Opencast**.



Opencast will confirm when your video is uploaded.



You can now go back to your Amathuba site. After a few minutes, your video will be listed in the **Recordings** tab on the **Lecture Videos** page.

Request a transcript

You may request a transcript for course videos. You can read the [Managing Transcripts & Captions](#) guide for information on how to do so.

Opencast Studio Device Compatibility

As of May 2022, not all functionality is available on Android mobile devices and Safari on laptops/desktops. For a current list of compatible devices and browsers, follow this link:

<https://github.com/elan-ev/opencast-studio>

Note: iPads and iPhones (iOS) are not supported at this point in time. Users may get the following message when trying to use Opencast Studio:

“Your browser does not support recording media streams. If you are using Safari, you can enable the experimental feature 'MediaRecorder' in settings. However, on macOS, we recommend switching to Chrome or Firefox.”

If using an iPad, use Apple's built-in screen recorder, then upload the video file to Amathuba.

<https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT207935>

Extra resources

Watch the video created by CILT on [using Opencast Studio to record your videos](#).