

Recording Videos in Opencast Studio in Amathuba

Last updated: 11 December 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?

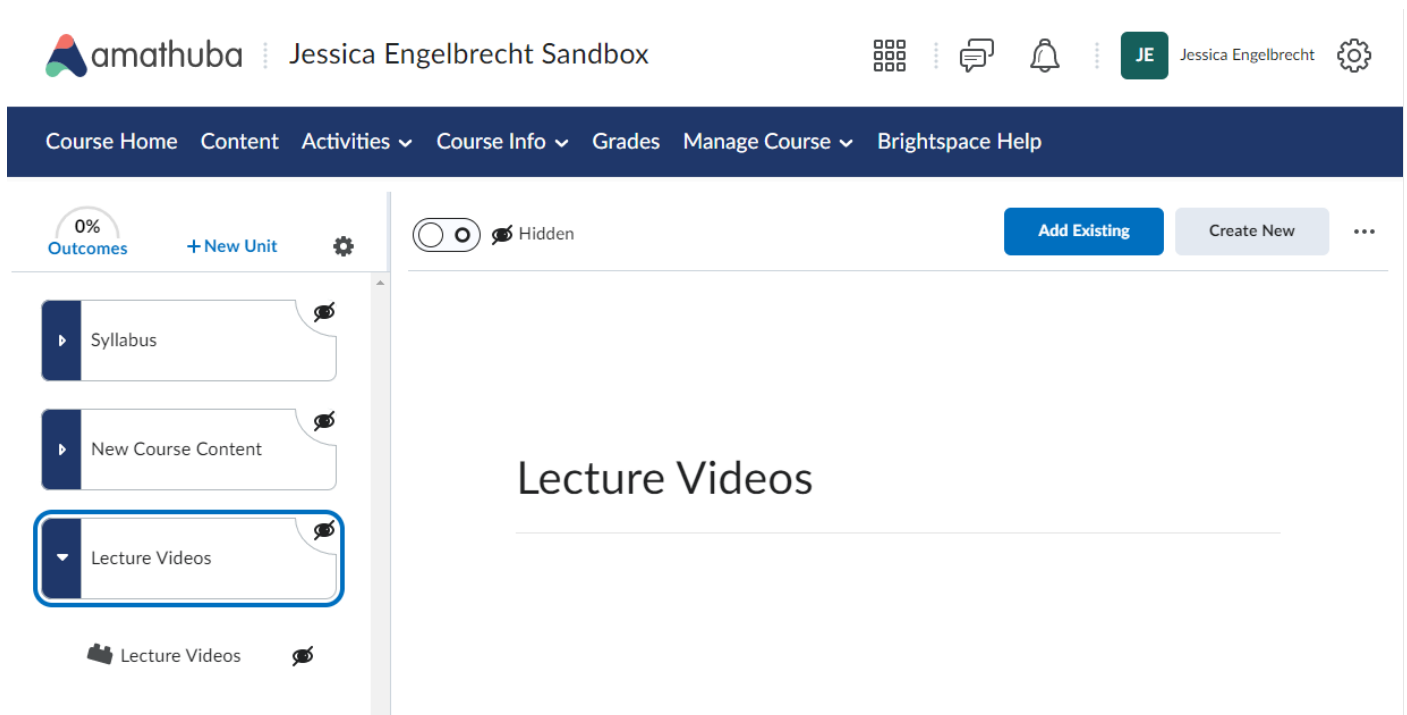
You will first need to add the Lecture Videos tool to your Amathuba site:

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. At the top, the header includes the Amathuba logo, the user name 'Jessica Engelbrecht Sandbox', and navigation icons. Below the header is a dark blue navigation bar with links: 'Course Home', 'Content', 'Activities', 'Course Info', 'Grades', 'Manage Course', and 'Brightspace Help'. The main content area is titled 'Lecture Videos'. On the left, a sidebar menu is visible with options: 'Outcomes' (0%), '+ New Unit', 'Syllabus', 'New Course Content', and 'Lecture Videos' (which is highlighted with a blue border and a dropdown arrow). Below the sidebar, there is a 'Lecture Videos' icon. In the top right of the main content area, there are buttons for 'Add Existing' and 'Create New', along with a 'Hidden' toggle switch.

Click on **Lecture Videos**

Course Home Content Activities ▾ Course Info ▾ Grades Manage Course ▾ Help ▾

0 % Outcomes
+ New Unit
☒ Visible
Add Existing
Create New

Search titles, descriptions

First-term toolkit

Lecture Videos

Lecture Videos

Lecture Videos

LTI • Required
Edit Activity

Activity Content

RECORDINGS
MANAGE

SETTINGS

Latest Recordings
Upcoming Recordings (0)
Download
Feedback

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

☒ Visible
Add Existing
Create New

Lecture Videos

LTI • Required
Edit Activity

Activity Content

RECORDINGS
MANAGE

SETTINGS

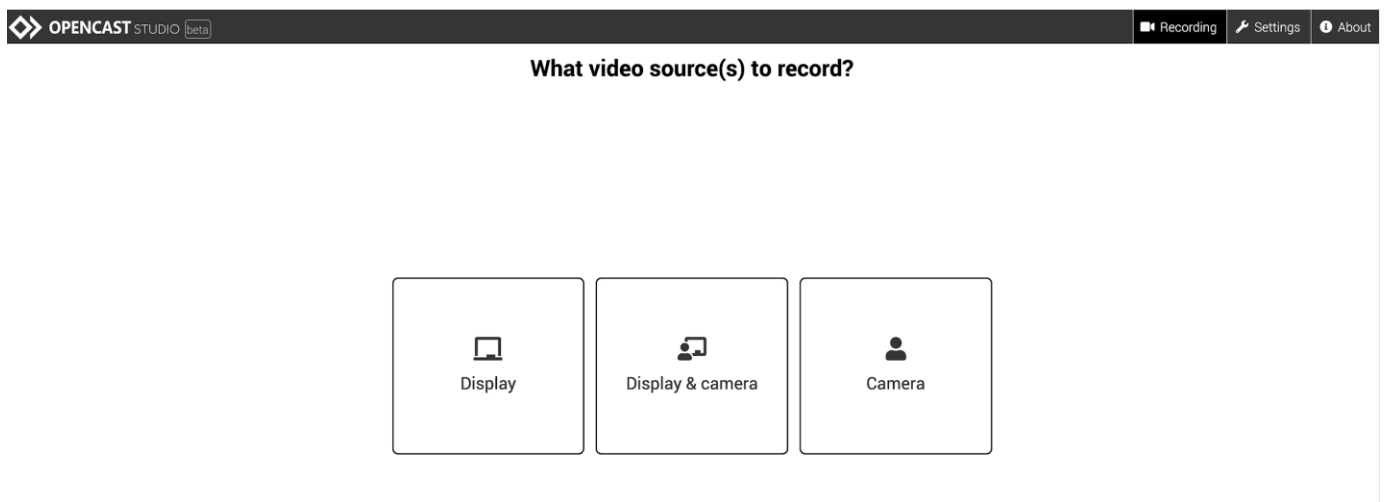
Manage Recordings

Record
Upload
Schedule
Timetable Scheduling

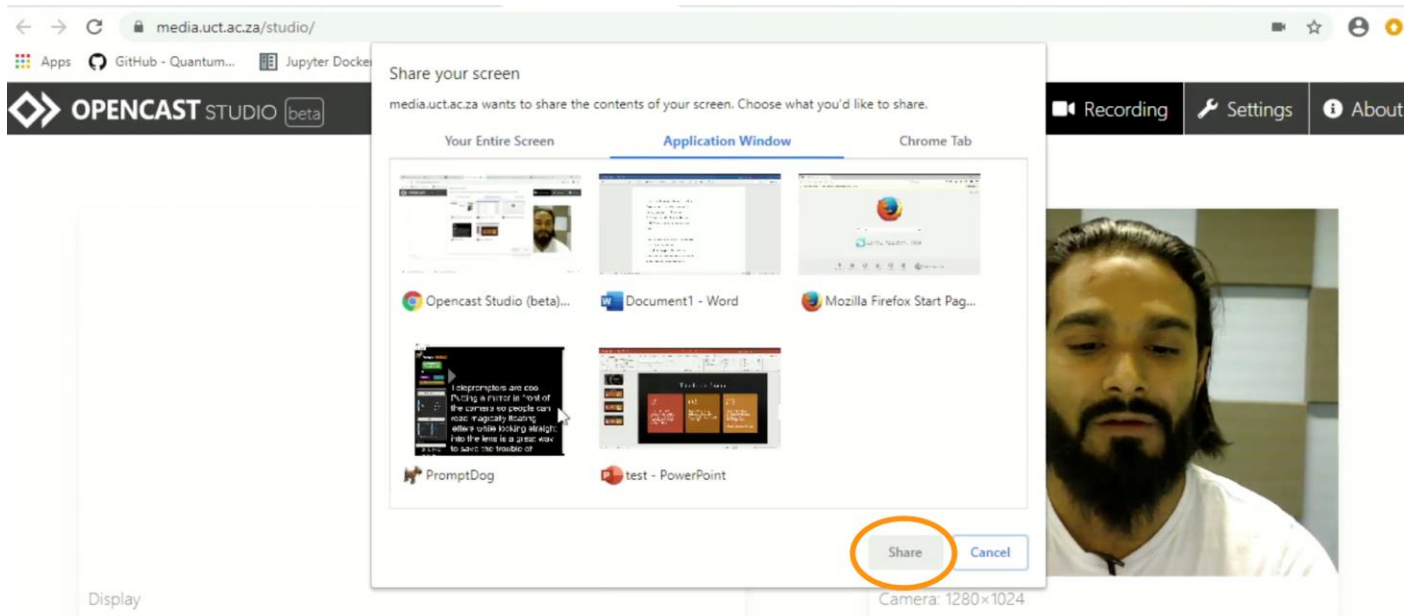
Weekday
Status: All
Search by Title/Lecturer/Venue

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

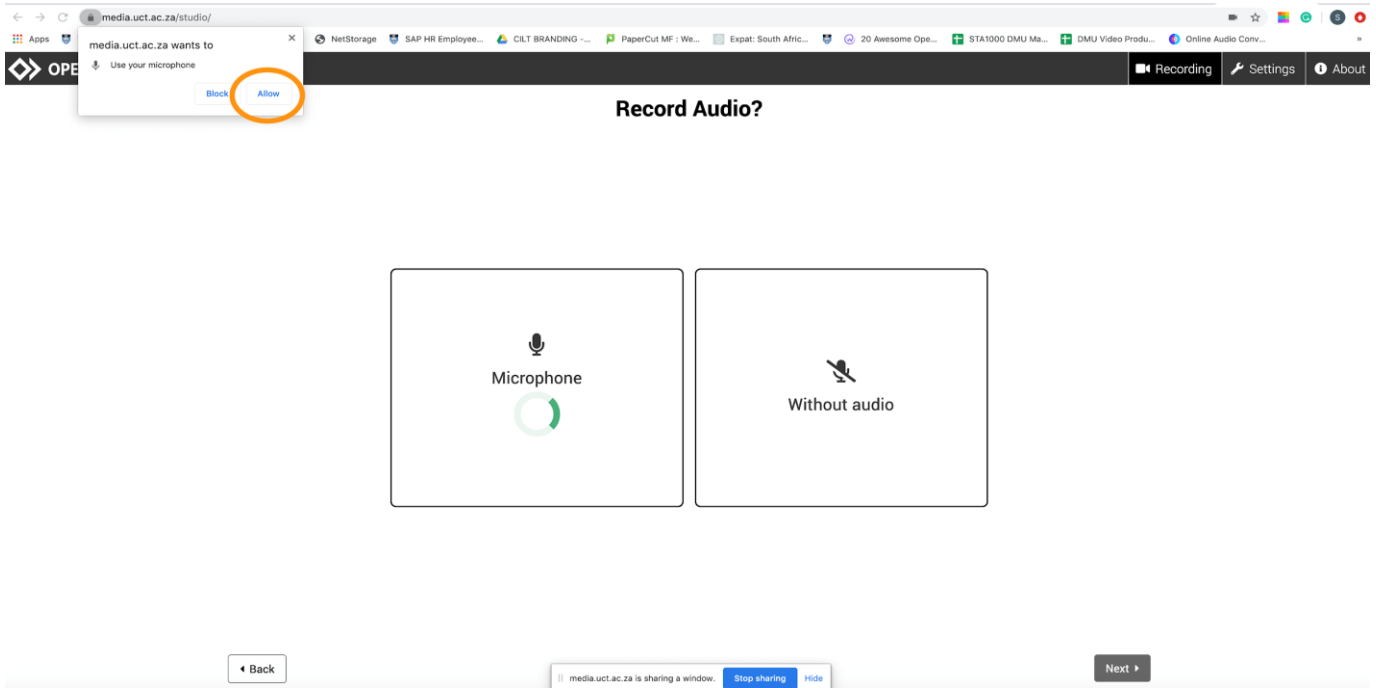


In the recording option that you chose, select the screen that you want to share (if you chose **Display** or **Display & camera**).

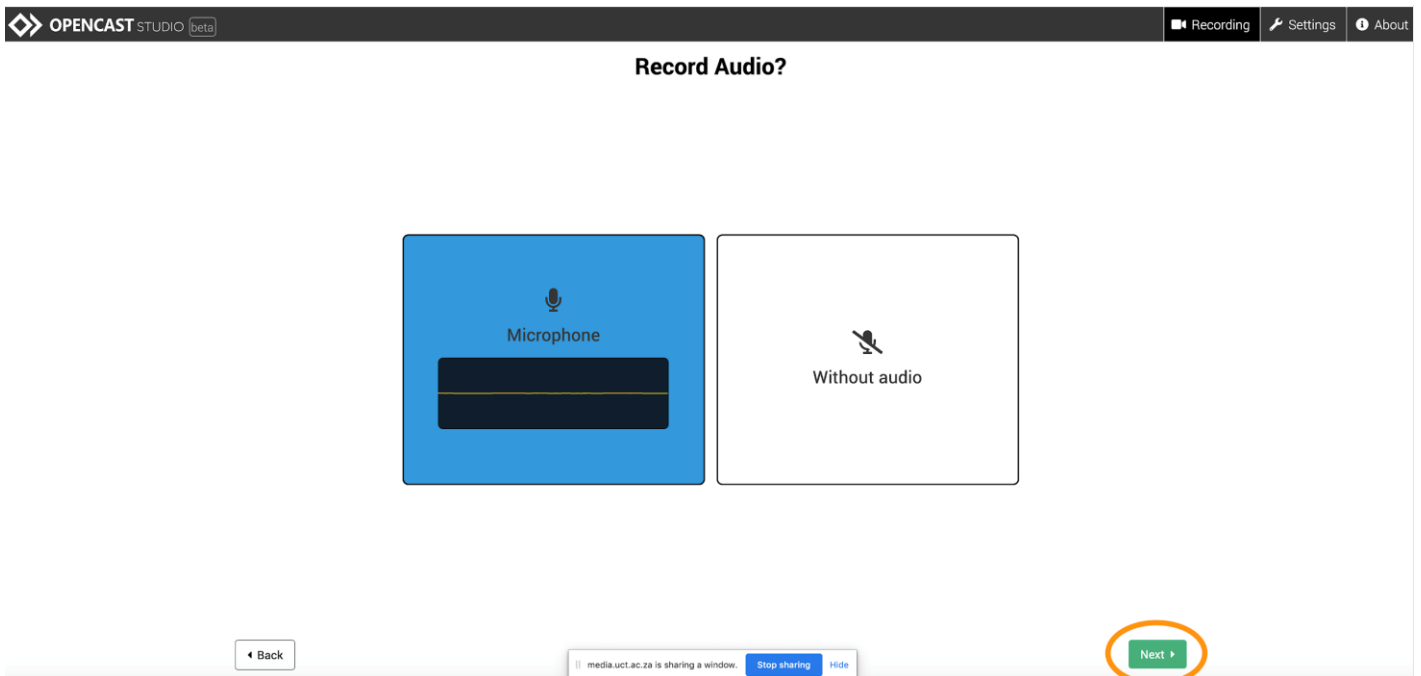


You can select to record with a **Microphone** or **Without audio** ('Without audio' would be selected if you are recording a screencast that doesn't require audio). Allow the program to access your microphone by selecting **Allow** in the pop-up box and then clicking **Next**.

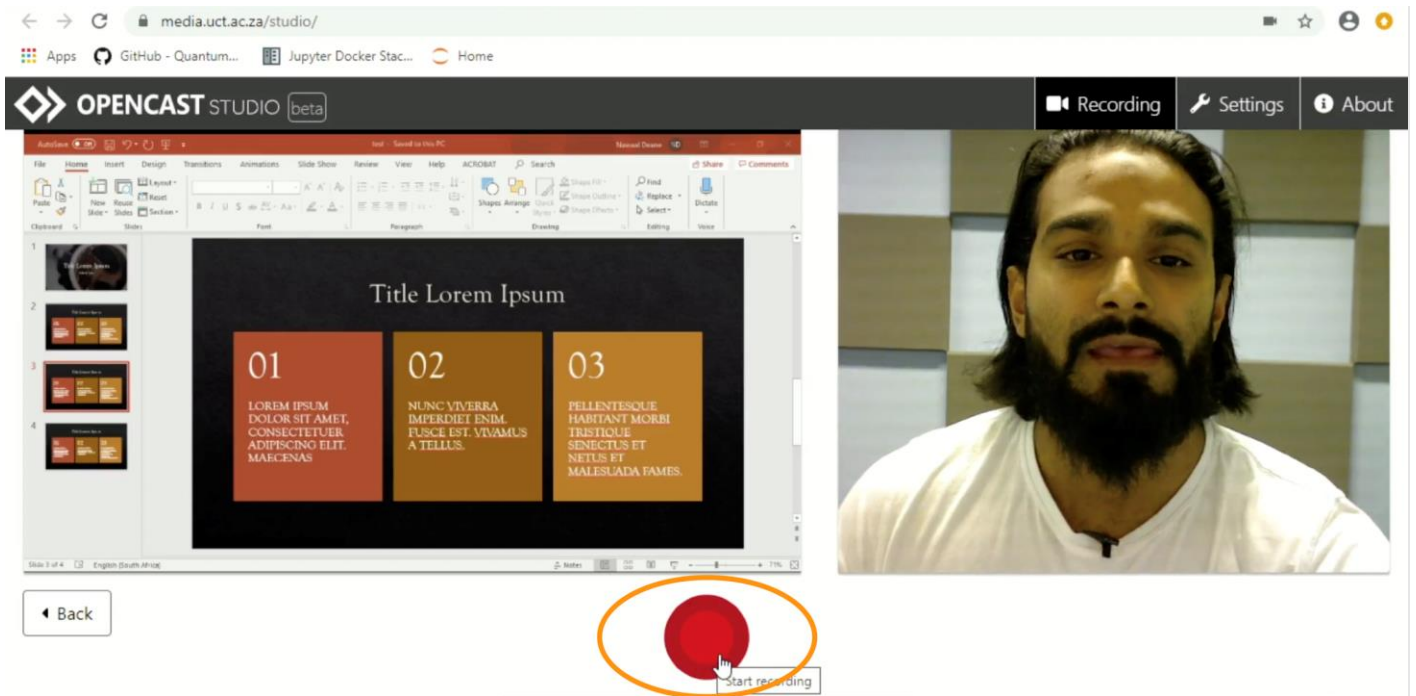
Facebook: /CILT.UCT **Web:** www.cilt.uct.ac.za **Service Portal:** uct.service-now.com **Email:** cilt-helpdesk@uct.ac.za **Phone:** 021 650 5500



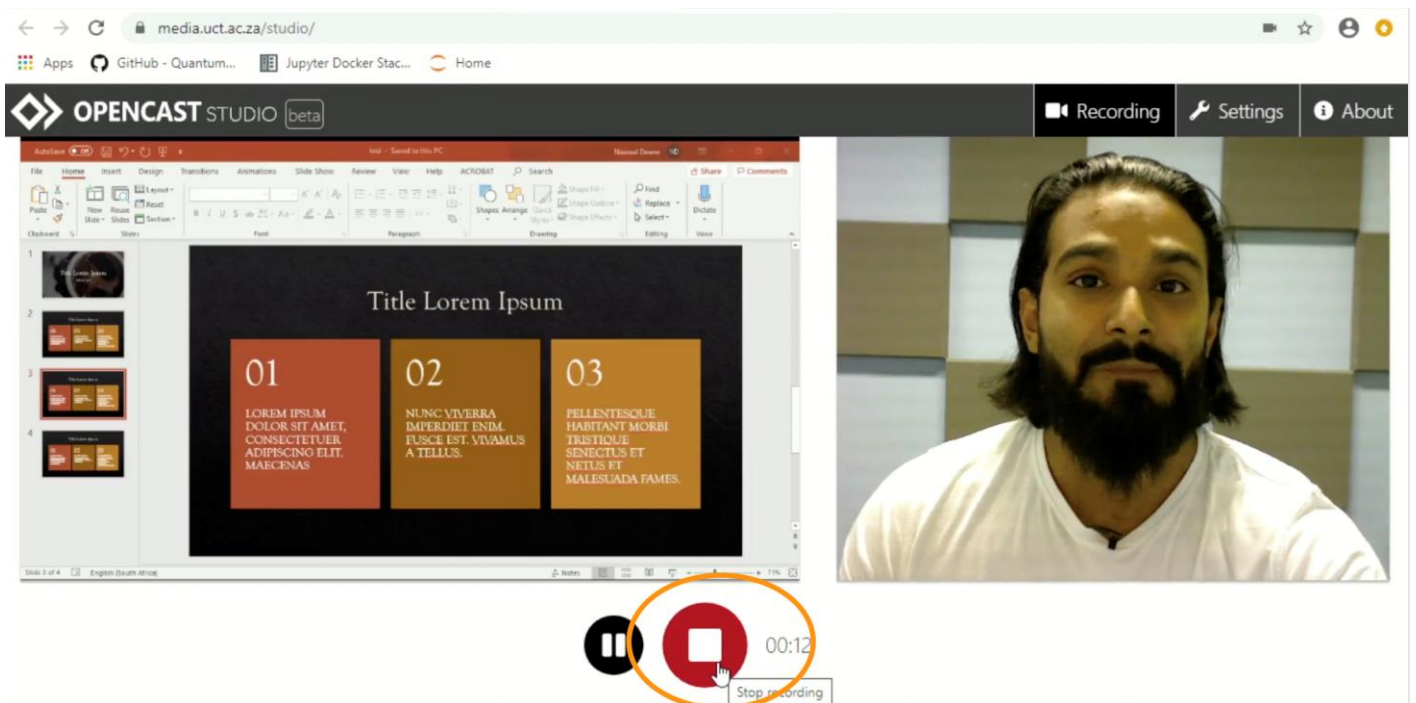
If you select **Microphone**, OpenCast Studio will automatically test the sound. Click **Next**.



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



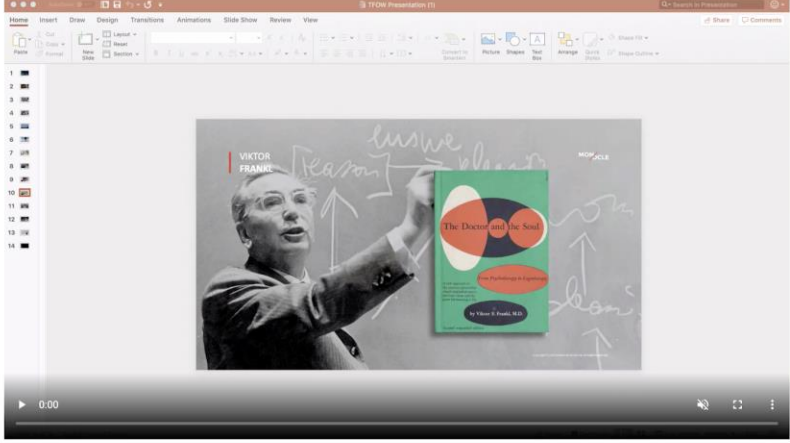
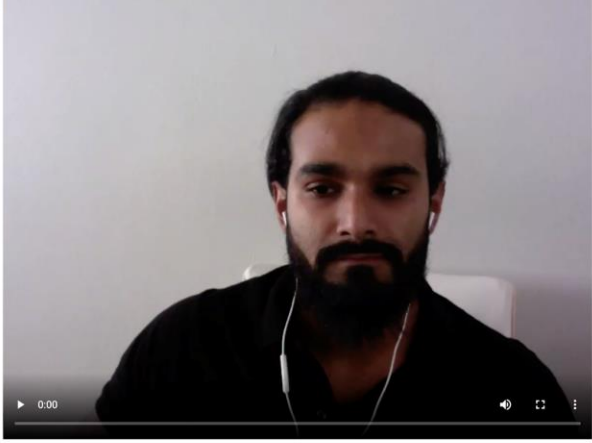
Click the **Stop recording** button to end your recording.



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?

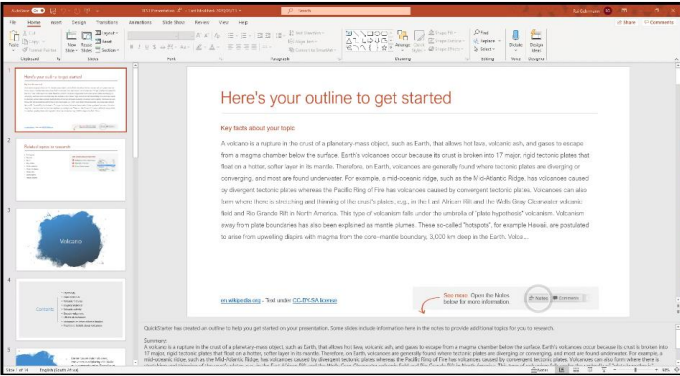




Discard and record again Next



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?

Discard and record again Next

Start: 00:22  End: 03:49 

00:29 / 04:11

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**.

Facebook: /CILT.UCT Web: www.cilt.uct.ac.za Service Portal: uct.service-now.com Email: cilt-helpdesk@uct.ac.za Phone: 021 650 5500

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**.

Apps GitHub - Quantum... Jupyter Docker Stac... Home


OPENCAST STUDIO beta Recording Settings About

Done!


Upload to Opencast


Title
demonstration


Presenter
Saadiq


 Upload to Opencast


Download recording



 Download



 Download

 Start a new recording


oc-studio-2020-0-...mp4 oc-studio-2020-0-...mp4 oc-studio-2020-0-...mkv oc-studio-2020-0-...mkv Show all X

Opencast will confirm when your video is uploaded.

OPENCAST STUDIO beta Recording Settings About

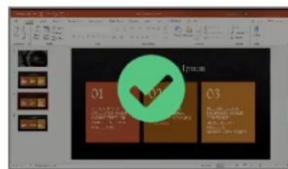
Done!


Upload to Opencast





Upload complete!


Download recording



 Download



 Download

 Start a new recording

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 December 2024, 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](#).