



## Schmidt Studio

The Schmidt Studio enables Questacon to deliver innovative science, technology, engineering and maths programmes directly into school classrooms across the nation.

The Schmidt Studio is a customisable, broadcast-quality production studio, complete with HD videoconference capabilities. The Schmidt Studio is proudly supported by Raytheon Australia.

As more schools are becoming connected by broadband, Questacon is linking young Australians—including those in remote communities—with scientific and educational facilities around the world. The Schmidt Studio is also strengthening international linkages by connecting students to scientific events in other countries.



The Schmidt Studio came online in 2009, and in 2011 was officially named in honour of Australian astrophysicist Professor Brian Schmidt, who was the Nobel Prize Laureate in Physics that year.

Since 2009, students have been able to meet, listen to and interact with scientists, doctors, astronauts, musicians and politicians via high-definition videoconference. Students have been taken on virtual excursions with scientists in a variety of locations, from a scientific research vessel floating in the gulf of Alaska to Australia's Davis Station in Antarctica.



Questacon has facilitated opportunities for schools to engage in real-time conversations with high profile people like Charles Bolden (NASA Administrator), Gotye (musician), scientists at CERN (Switzerland), Professor Elizabeth Blackburn (Nobel Laureate), Dr Tim Jarvis (polar explorer), Dr Fiona Wood (burns researcher) and Professor Brian Schmidt (Nobel Laureate).

## At a glance

The studio is equipped for HD, 2K, 4K and High Speed video capabilities; is compatible with IP based videoconferencing, Skype, CISCO and live HD web streaming; and utilises LED and fluorescent lighting for energy efficiency.

Since 2010, the Questacon Schmidt Studio has been used to:

- Host more than 400 interactive *Virtual Excursions* for students of all ages.
- Connected over 550 videoconference endpoints reaching more than 13 000 students and teachers.
- Connect to classrooms in USA, New Zealand, South Korea, Singapore, Japan, China and every Australian state and territory, including Christmas Island.
- Produce multiple television segments and webisodes for external clients such as PRIME Media group and CSIRO.
- Record over 50 high-speed science demonstrations at up to 200 000 frames per second, building a unique resource for educators and the general public.
- Produce slow motion footage for *The Boffin*, *The Builder* and *The Bombardier* TV series, and 20 episodes of the *Questacon Excited Particles* conducting demonstrations for ABC TV.
- Conduct on-screen interviews with:
  - two Nobel Laureates;
  - recipients of the *Prime Minister's Prizes for Science*;
  - a Multi-Grammy Award winning musician;
  - two former NASA astronauts;
  - plus many more scientists, innovators, engineers, and science communicators from Australia and around the world.



Questacon also delivers the *Questacon Virtual Excursions* programme from the Schmidt Studio.

*Virtual Excursions* are engaging workshops and events delivered via videoconference, offering a unique and interactive, real-time experience to schools across Australia.

A variety of *Virtual Excursion* options are available including one-hour STEM workshops, cross-curricula workshops and longer, project-based experiences.

The Schmidt Studio is also fully-equipped for broadcast-quality video production as well as high-speed cinematography capability.

A range of Questacon video productions and recordings of videoconference events are available to view on Questacon's YouTube channel (Questacon NSTC).

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