

## Top Tips for Recording at Home

Whether you're leading a live conference or recording a short testimonial, these tips will help you make the most of the things you have at home to produce a good-quality video.

### PHONE CAMERAS

Make sure you're recording in **landscape**, not portrait mode.

Use the **back camera** (i.e. not the selfie camera) for a higher-quality image.

Don't use the **zoom** function as this will lower the quality. Instead, get closer to the phone if you need to zoom in.

Under camera settings, make sure you've selected the **highest resolution** available to record in (e.g. '4K' or '30fps')

Prop up your phone somewhere **stable** rather than holding it, and do a trial recording to make sure you're getting a good angle which is straight-on. You don't need a tripod or anything fancy for this – a bag of rice works just as well!

If your phone camera app has a **grid** setting which you can enable, this will help make sure your shot isn't wonky. Ideally, your eyes should be positioned at the top line of the grid (i.e. 2/3rds of the way up).

### WEBCAMS

You can record videos using the camera app on Windows 10, Quicktime on Mac, or any other preferred software.

This should be relatively simple to set up, but the tips under 'phone cameras' may be helpful to get your webcam in a good position.

### BACKGROUND

You don't need a stark white background to make a good, clean recording, but you can reduce distractions by covering any trailing cables, tidying away clutter, etc.

When you do a test recording, keep an eye on the background to see if there's a way you can easily reposition yourself so it's less distracting, e.g. making sure pictures on the wall are centred rather than off to one side.

### LIGHTING

If possible, find a light source behind the camera (i.e. facing you!) for a good-quality recording. Do not sit with a window or another light source behind you, as this will make you appear in shadow on the camera.

If you're using a laptop, you could open a blank document and let the white screen light up your face.

If you're in an area with poor-quality lighting, you can use your smartphone's flashlight as a last resort, as they can be quite harsh.

If you have glasses, lights like this might reflect off the lenses and cause glare. In these cases, try moving the lights off to the side until the glare goes away, or move your camera so it's not straight-on.

## **SOUND**

If you have a dedicated microphone, place it 6-10 inches away from your mouth.

If you're using a phone, make sure it's within 3 feet of you. If you have good quality headphones, the microphone on these may be better than the one on your phone.

Avoid sitting near large appliances, vents and air conditioners. You may not notice the noise much, but it can be quite loud on a recording.

## **MAKING THE RECORDING**

Whatever your set up, it's a good idea to do a couple of 10-second test recordings to make sure there are no issues with lighting, sound or positioning.

Most of the time your recording will sound much more natural if you write out a few bullet-points and talk freely about these rather than trying to read from a script. However, if after a few attempts you find this just isn't working, feel free to write a script!

Speaking too quickly is a common issue in home recordings. It can be helpful to do a few run-throughs first to get used to what you have to say and to make sure it's coming out at a natural pace. You can also try having someone else record you and talking to them instead of the camera, this can help you slow down.