

Recording Research Videos

Before You Record

There are small things you can do before recording that make a big difference in the video's quality. The most important are finding an appropriate location, lighting that makes you the focal point of the video, and clear audio. Below are some visual and audio tips on how to film high-quality video at home.

- Look for a simple, clean background. Some visual elements help make it interesting, but too many can become distracting.
- Sit in a well-lit space, with the best lighting in front of you, so your face is clearly exposed. Do not sit with your back facing a window; this can be distracting while also throwing off the video's exposure.
- Place the computer so the camera is at your eye-level and look directly into the camera when recording. It's important to create the illusion that you're speaking directly to your audience. If your computer is too short, place books under it to raise the height.
- For audio, choose a position that is away from obvious noise, can be closed off (such as by shutting a door), and isn't near a busy part of your location (such as by a front window near a busy street). Try to eliminate as much background noise as possible before you even begin to record.
- If possible, use an external microphone that is as close to you as possible, without necessarily being in the shot. The less space between you and the microphone, the better. There are many USB microphones that will accomplish this, either table-top stand-up microphones, or clip-on lavalier type microphones.
- Always do a test recording to check your settings before you record. There's nothing worse than making an actual recording, only to find out your audio wasn't working.

Examples of Good Video Backgrounds



How to Record the Videos

Bentley offers several different software options that can be used to record lectures at home. The most popular choices are Zoom and Kaltura Capture. However, others can be used as well. The most important thing is to use a software that you're comfortable with and can record high quality video and audio. Bentley also has a full video studio with professional staff who can assist you in creating this video. They will help with the lighting, audio, camera, and recording, as well as editing the finished video. The studio has a Microsoft Surface Studio touch screen computer, as well as a Learning Glass lightboard (transparent writing board) and a green screen. They can also help edit videos that you recorded on your own to add music, clean them up, add titles, etc. and can ensure that it meets the quality standards.