

TIPS FOR USING AVAILABLE LIGHT

- Keep an eye on time while shooting. Your natural light source is always moving
- Get the weather forecast – useful websites: yr.no, met.ie

OUTDOORS

- Take time to consider the environment - are there trees or buildings that could cast shadows?
- Avoid recording in harsh light which give great contrast between light and dark areas (you won't want the subject squinting either!).
- Look for spots in the shade to place your subject. For soft light that's strong enough to establish depth and shape, go to the edge of a shaded area. Here you'll find a balance between harsh light and full shade.
- In general, shoot in the direction of the light (shine light on the scene.) Unless you're after a specific shot (e.g. silhouette effect) backlighting should be avoided.
- Magic hour is the hour leading up to sunset or just after sunrise. The warm, natural light at this time is very soft and forgiving, and will make your scene glow.
- If it makes sense for your video (i.e. want a night time feel), shoot at blue hour - the short window after the sun goes down, or before it comes up, where the sky is bright (providing ambient light) but the sun isn't visible.
- Clouds bring the light source closer, providing a much softer light.

INDOORS

- Recce the space - is there a window(s) in the room, or a skylight? Is there a tree outside that will block the light after a certain time?
- During the day, windows are a good source of natural light. Set up your scene close to the window.
- Use the natural light as sidelight (or backlight, if needed) on the subject.
- Curtains/blinds can offer shade from harsh light.
- For additional light sources, use lamps (household or office lamps work well) and aim for soft, diffused lighting with minimal shadows.
- Choose locations that will lend themselves well to shooting without additional lighting.