

How do you film in UHD?

Transcript

The BBC's Blue Planet 2 was shot using the very latest UHD camera technology. But how do you film in UHD?

How do you film in UHD? [Chapter card]

The first thing you need to consider are your delivery requirements.

Is your production for the giant screen? Is it live? Will it go into post-production?

The answers to these questions will affect what you need to deliver.

Check that everyone in the team is working towards the same deliverables and that they comply with the BBC specific technical delivery standards.

BBC specific technical delivery standards [Chapter card]

Once you know what you're making, you'll need to find the right camera.

Use a UHD1 Tier 1 camera or higher. Some Tier 2 cameras are acceptable too – but check with your broadcaster.

UHD1 Tier 1 UHD1 Tier 2 [Chapter card]

If you're making a live BBC programme you'll need a camera that outputs hybrid log gamma. But Blue Planet II and Planet Earth II were shot in raw.

Shooting in raw or log makes it possible for the wider colour gamut and higher dynamic range to be applied in post-production.

For the HDR, you need to capture at least 12 stops of dynamic range.

And you'll need your view finder and monitor output to be overlaid with a look up table or LUT. This converts the raw data into a viewable image.

The in-camera LUT should be established at test shoot stage and then maintained throughout shoot.

You'll need to take extra care with focus.

You have four times as many pixels as you would in HD. The sensor is much larger and therefore you have very shallow depth of field, making subject focus much more difficult.

Finally, remember UHD will generate at least four times as much data as HD, so make sure you've got the media you need.

In summary, when shooting in UHD:

- know your deliverables
- use the correct output for the production's workflow
- check your camera specifications
- establish your LUT
- take extra care with focus
- calculate your media requirements in advance

Take your time. Get it right. You won't be disappointed.