Questions to ask before you hire a studio

A checklist to work through before you sign, with space to write each answer.

Ask these before you sign anything, and get the answers in writing with the quote. A studio quote can look complete and still leave out the things that cost you a day.

Before you ask anything

Write your shoot in one paragraph: the number of people on set, the set and any builds, the shots you need, the time you need and the equipment you are bringing. Send that with the questions, so the studio answers for your shoot rather than for a generic one.

My shoot, in one paragraph

1. The room

☐ **Is the room size the cove or the whole room?**

Ask for the width, depth and height of the space you will use, and which measurement is quoted. Measure your set against it.

Their answer:

☐ **What is the grid height?**

Granary's answer: 4.5 metres to the grid in The White Space.

Their answer:

☐ **Are there windows or daylight?**

Granary's answer: none. The building has no windows, skylights or roof lights, so the light is the rig, not the weather.

Their answer:

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2. Light, grip and kit

☐ **What lighting is included?**
Granary's answer: house lighting on the 8-bar grid is included with every space hire, with grip: C-stands, flags, bounce, apple boxes and a 1 metre turntable.
Their answer:

☐ **What do I need to bring?**
Ask about lenses, stands, cables and any specialist lights, and whether the studio has them.
Their answer:

☐ **Do any special effects cost extra?**
Granary's answer: a rain rig is a bespoke build, quoted per production.
Their answer:

3. Access and time

☐ **How do I get equipment in?**
Granary's answer: ground-level load-in.
Their answer:

☐ **How many parking spaces are there?**
Granary's answer: fifteen parking spaces on site, and an EV charger.
Their answer:

☐ **Does my shoot day fit the opening hours?**
Granary's answer: Monday to Friday 09:00 to 20:00, and Saturday and Sunday 10:00 to 16:00.
Their answer:

4. Crew and people

☐ **Is crew included?**
Granary's answer: no. The space hire includes the room, the house lighting and grip, and the facilities. Crew is booked on top at the day rates.
Their answer:

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☐ **Who runs the lights and the sound?**
Ask whether a gaffer or a sound recordist is included, or whether you need to book them.
Their answer:

☐ **Where do people wait?**
Granary's answer: a dressing room and a client viewing area. Ask how many people each holds comfortably.
Their answer:

5. Safety and paperwork

☐ **What is the safety induction?**
Ask what the studio briefs everyone on when they arrive, including visitors.
Their answer:

☐ **Who assesses the job?**
General guidance is never a substitute for a competent person assessing the actual shoot. Ask who does that assessment, and what you must provide for it.
Their answer:

☐ **What insurance does the studio hold, and what must I hold?**
Ask for the answer in writing, and check it with your broker before the shoot.
Their answer:

6. Money and changes

☐ **What is in the quote, and what is extra?**
Ask for a dated written quote with each line, including VAT.
Their answer:

☐ **What are the cancellation and change terms?**
Ask for them in writing. Do not assume they match the last studio you used.
Their answer:

Granary's rate card, with the room, lighting and hours above: www.granary.digital/rate-card.html (checked 5 November 2026).

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