

Department of Psychiatry, 149 Tottenham Ct Rd, London W1T 7BN

Department of Psychology and Language Sciences, Research Department of Clinical, Educational & Health Psychology, 26 Bedford Way, London, WC1H 0AP

**Name and Contact Details of the UCL Data Protection Officer:**

Alexandra Potts: [data-protection@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@ucl.ac.uk)

**Social Emotions**

**Participant Information Sheet**

This research has been approved by UCL Research Ethics Committee

(Approval ID Number: 24867/001)

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you make a decision, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. Deciding not to participate will not affect you now or in the future in any way. Thank you for reading this.

**What is the purpose of this study?**

The purpose of this study is to improve our understanding of mood and emotion fluctuations and investigate what causes them in adolescents and young adults.

**Why have I been invited to take part?**

You have been invited because you were interested in participating in a study investigating mood and emotions. To take part you must be between [any range between 16 and 65 years old], speak fluent English, and have a good internet connection.

**Do I have to take part?**

It is completely up to you to decide whether or not to take part in this study. We will describe what will happen during this study in this information sheet for which you can take as much time as needed to make sure you understand everything. If you have questions, you can contact the research team using the emails provided. If you are happy to proceed you can then sign a consent form and continue on to the screening questionnaire. You are free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason and without it affecting any benefits that you are entitled to. If you decide to withdraw you will be asked what you wish to happen to the data you have provided up that point.

**What will happen if I take part?**

You will first start with an initial screening questionnaire which takes about 5 minutes to complete, and if the study is suitable for you, you will be invited to the actual study which involves completing some questionnaires and computer tasks. During the screening, you will be asked to answer some questions to decide whether this study would be suitable for you.

**Study summary**: This is a study about how people think about, and want to change, their experiences including those of low mood or feeling anxious in social situations. If you decide to take part, and if screening shows the study would be suitable for you, you will answer some questionnaires and perform some computer tasks outlined below. The total duration of the study is up to 90 minutes.

**Who can take part (eligibility assessment*)***: After reading this information sheet, for which you can take as much time as needed to make sure you understand everything, you will have an opportunity to ask us any questions. Once you have decided that this study is of interest to you, you will need to answer some additional questions to make sure the study is suitable for you. Once you have been selected to participate in the study, you must note that you can still withdraw from the study at any time during, before or at the end of the study, you can request the deletion of any data you have provided. You do not need to give us any reason. However, if you choose to withdraw after the study finishes it will not be possible to delete your data, as your personal information will be deleted and it will no longer be possible to identify your study record.

**Mental health questionnaires**: As part of this study, you will complete questionnaires relating to your mental health before and during the study session. The questionnaire data will be saved on a secured online platform and will take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

**Choice tasks**: You will also complete a few computer-based tasks studying which experiences people prefer and which ones they would most like to get rid of. You may be asked to say which experiences (such as symptoms of anxiety) you would most like to change; you may also be asked what treatments you would prefer in order to change those experiences. There will be no correct or incorrect answers on these tasks. Also, the treatments are imaginary. So, they don’t correspond to any real treatments. This part of the study may take up to 70 minutes with as many breaks in between as you need.

**Feedback**: In the end of the study, we would like to ask you for your feedback, which will take ca. 15 minutes. This is to see if we got your preferences accurately. For this purpose, we may show you some results from the questionnaires where we asked about the experiences you prefer to go away. Please be aware that this information may not always be correct, and that we present it for research purposes only. We do not and cannot give any form of medical or health advice. In case you feel you need advice about your health, please contact your GP or other health professional. If you are currently experiencing mental health problems, you can also contact charities such as Mind (https://www.mind.org.uk) or Samaritans (https://www.samaritans.org).

***Video and audio recording including eye movements*:** We may collect video and audio recordings for some tasks as part of this research. If a task requires this, you will be informed and asked explicitly to give your permission at the point of audio and/or video recording. Whilst you look at your computer camera, we will also record the direction to which your eyes move. This allows us to understand better how people choose between different options. The data will be kept safe on a secure university computer and storing system to which access is highly restricted (only by the study team) and will be destroyed at the end of the study.

**What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

We do not expect any risks or side effects associated to the computerised tasks and questionnaires we use in this study. However, if you are not comfortable answering any of the mental health questions, then you will not be compelled to do so. If you are currently experiencing any mental health problems, you can contact your healthcare provider or charities such as Mind (https://www.mind.org.uk) or Samaritans (https://www.samaritans.org). However, if you provide us with specific issues we could guide you better according to your specific needs—even if you decide not to take part in this study.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

You will be compensated for the time you spend participating in the study at a rate [£9/hour or current equivalent under PALS departmental policy]. Apart from the monetary compensation, there will be no direct benefits of taking part in this study. However, you will have the pleasure of knowing that you have made a great contribution to our understanding how mood and emotions fluctuate in different situations. Findings of this research will help us to improve psychological treatments for emotional problems in young people.

**What if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspects of this study, in the first instance you should contact the researchers in this study who will do their best to answer your questions. You can contact them using the email address aim.lab@ucl.ac.uk. However, if you feel your complaint has not been handled in a satisfactory manner you may contact the Chair of the UCL Research Ethics Committee, [ethics@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ethics@ucl.ac.uk). Please note that all researchers working with individuals below the age of 18 have undergone a satisfactory criminal records check.

**Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?**

All the information that we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. You will not be able to be identified in any ensuing reports or publications. We will take every precaution to ensure that confidentiality is not breached, including only storing your anonymised data. We will take every precaution to ensure that confidentiality is not breached, including only storing eye movement, video and audio recording data on a secure university computer system to which access is highly restricted (only by the study team), and by issuing you with a specific code to use instead of your name when completing the online questionnaires and cognitive tests. Information such as name, email, address or IP will NOT be collected as part of this study.

**Limits to confidentiality**

Confidentiality will be respected unless there are compelling and legitimate reasons for this to be breached (for example in the unlikely event of a threat to your safety or the safety of others, or if we are legally obliged to). If this was the case, we would inform you of any decisions that might limit your confidentiality.

**What will happen to the results of the research project?**

The results of the study will be presented at conferences, published in scientific articles, and may be used as part of Master’s or PhD degree dissertations. You will not be identified in any report or publication. After publication the anonymised study data will be made available as “open data” on a public archive, meaning anyone with an internet connection can download them, in perpetuity. This is so that other researchers can easily access the data if they wish to perform extra analyses or ask different scientific questions. It will not be possible to identify you based on the data placed in the archive.

**Local Data Protection Privacy Notice**

***Notice*:** The controller for this project will be University College London (UCL). The UCL Data Protection Officer provides oversight of UCL activities involving the processing of personal data, and can be contacted at [data-protection@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@ucl.ac.uk).

This ‘local’ privacy notice sets out the information that applies to this particular study. Further information on how UCL uses participant information is provided in our ‘general’ privacy notice for participants in health and social care studies, which can be viewed [here](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/legal-services/privacy/participants-health-and-care-research-privacy-notice).

The information that is required to be provided to participants under data protection legislation (GDPR and DPA 2018) is provided across both the ‘local’ and ‘general’ privacy notices.

* The categories of personal data collected in this study will be: *name, age, health, sex, gender, ethnicity, video/audio [we may collect this for some tasks in the current study]*.
* The lawful basis that will be used to process your personal data is *performance of tasks in the public interest*.
* The lawful basis that will be used to process your *special category personal data* (which includes health data) is *research purposes*.
* *Your personal data will be processed so long as it is required for the research project*. If we are able to anonymise or pseudonymise the personal data you provide we will undertake this, and we will endeavour to minimise the processing of personal data wherever possible.
* Your personal data will not be transferred to any other institution.

If you are concerned about how your personal data is being processed, or if you would like to contact us about your rights, please contact UCL in the first instance at [data-protection@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@ucl.ac.uk).

**Who is organising and funding the research?**

This research is being organised by researchers at the UCL departments of Psychiatry, Psychology and Language Sciences, and the faulty of Brain sciences. This research is being funded by the Wellcome Trust.

**Contact for further information**

If you have any questions about the study you should contact the research team using the email [aim.lab@ucl.ac.uk](https://liveuclac.sharepoint.com/Users/marjan/Desktop/suprise/Ethics_re-submission_March2023/amendment_01/PIS/aim.lab@ucl.ac.uk).

Thank you for reading this information sheet

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

* I wish to proceed with the study
* I do not wish to proceed with the study

If Yes:

*Thank you for reading this information sheet and deciding to participate in this study. Our research depends entirely on the goodwill of potential volunteers such as you.*

|  |
| --- |
|  |

I confirm that I understand that by ticking each box below I am consenting to this part of the study. **I understand that it will be assumed that unticked boxes mean that I do NOT consent to that part of the study and, by not giving consent for any one element, I may be deemed ineligible for the study.**

* 1. I have read the information above and understand I can email the researchers with any questions.
* 2. I consent to the collection of the following types of research data: Mental health questionnaires, performance on choice tasks and responses to the feedback-questionnaires.
* 4. Besides video and audio recordings, I understand that no identifiable personal information will be collected and that my data will be stored securely .
* 5. I consent to eye movement, video and audio recordings of the testing session to take place.

[ ] N/A

* 6. I understand that the eye movement, video and audio recording data will be kept safe on a secure university computer and storing system to which access is highly restricted (only by the study team) and will be de-identified and destroyed after the data analysis.

[ ] N/A

* 7. I understand that participation is completely voluntary and that I can withdraw at any point without giving any reason and without any penalty, simply by closing my browser.
* 8. I understand that confidentiality will be strictly adhered to and it will not be possible to identify me in any publications or presentations. I understand that such confidentiality is limited if evidence of wrongdoing or potential harm is uncovered. In such cases the researcher may be obliged to contact relevant statutory bodies/agencies.
* 9. I understand the benefits of participating as stated in the Information Sheet, including the receipt of financial compensation at the rate of £9 per hour.
* 10. I understand that only fully anonymised research data from the study will be presented, published or archived in an open access repository, which might be used for future analysis by other researchers not connected with UCL.
* 11. I hereby confirm that I am aged [any range between 18 and 65], speak fluent English, have a good internet connection.

By pressing “**Continue**” I consent to take part in this study