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Room 504
Griffith Taylor Building (A19)
The University of Sydney
NSW 2006 AUSTRALIA**PSYC1002 letters and numbers
PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT****(1) What is this study about?**

In this class activity, you will identify letters, words and/or numbers that appear rapidly on the screen. If you consent to our using your data, our data analysis will aim to improve the understanding of cognitive processes underlying visual processing of letters, words, and numbers.

(2) Who is running the study?

The study is being conducted by Professor Alex Holcombe, Ms Kimbra Ransley, Mr Charles Ludowici, and Mr Christopher Bush.

(3) What will the study involve for me?

The class activity will involve making simple judgments about stimuli presented on a computer screen. For example, you might be asked to identify a letter or indicate whether a visual stimulus appeared on the left or the right of the screen. Responses will be made using a computer mouse or keyboard. Additionally, you may be asked some basic questions about your age, sex, handedness, and reading/language experience. If you do not wish to answer any of these questions you may decline to do so without consequence.

(4) How much of my time will the study take?

The study is expected to take no more than 20 minutes in total. You may take a break at any time if you feel tired.

(5) Do I have to be in the study? Can I withdraw from the study once I've started?

The task is part of tutorial content for PSYC1002 and is highly relevant for your PSYC1002 report. But having your data included in the study is completely voluntary. You are not under any obligation to consent to that and, if you do consent, you can withdraw at any time without affecting your relationship with The University of Sydney. If you do not consent to being in the study you will still take part in the task as a learning-only exercise. In this case, your data will NOT be collected for publication.

(6) Are there any benefits associated with being in the study?

In this class activity you may gain insight into the ways that cognitive psychologists conduct experiments as well as into this particular task that you will discuss in your PSYC1002 report. Consenting to the use of the data for the research study will not benefit you in any way.

(7) What will happen to information about me that is collected during the study?

Your information will be stored securely and your identity/information will be kept strictly confidential, except as required by law. Study findings may be published, but you will not be individually identifiable in these publications.

We may submit the raw data from this project to an open access repository, so that other researchers can access it and use it to verify our analyses. Before we do so, we will take out all identifying information so that people accessing the data won't know whose data it is. They won't know that you participated in the project and they won't be able to link you to any of the information you provided.

(8) Can I tell other people about the study?

Yes, you are welcome to tell other people about the study.

(9) What if I would like further information about the study?

When you have read this information you may discuss any questions you have with your tutor.

More information about the study including summarised data, methods and relevant literature will be distributed to you in a later PSYC1002 tutorial, following completion of the study. You can consult your tutor if you have questions regarding this information.

To know more, please feel free to contact the lead researcher, Professor Alex Holcombe, at alex.holcombe@sydney.edu.au.

(10) What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the study?

Research involving humans in Australia is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the HREC of the University of Sydney (protocol number: *[insert protocol number when approved]*). As part of this process, we have agreed to carry out the study according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*. This statement has been developed to protect people who agree to take part in research studies.

If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the university using the details outlined below. Please quote the study title and protocol number.

The Manager, Ethics Administration, University of Sydney:

- **Telephone:** +61 2 8627 8176
- **Email:** ro.humanethics@sydney.edu.au
- **Fax:** +61 2 8627 8177 (Facsimile)