

# Participant Information Statement

## *Research Study: Human limits on processing visual words and letters*

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### 1. What is this study about?

We are conducting a research study that aims to examine capacity limits in word and letter processing. This involves seeing how performance patterns differ for word and letter stimuli. Our purpose is to identify the processing stages at which certain limitations affect visual processing. The study will explore cognitive processes underlying the visual perception of language. Taking part in this study is voluntary.

Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about.

### 2. Who is running the study?

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:

- Professor Alexander Holcombe (School of Psychology)
- Miss Tess Guo (Honours Student)

Tess Guo is conducting this study as the basis for the degree of Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) at The University of Sydney.

### 3. Who can take part in the study?

We are seeking anyone to take part in the study. However, participants who self-report as having poor visual acuity or are non-fluent English speakers will be excluded from the study, as the study intends to measure the visual perception of English letters and words.

#### **4. What will the study involve for me?**

The study will be conducted on the University of Sydney campus and consists of a computerised task. The total duration of the study is 1 hour. If you decide to take part in this study, you will be asked to make simple judgments about stimuli presented on a computer screen. The session may begin with calibration of an eye tracker to assess whether you are looking directly at the screen, this is a non-invasive process. Then the computer presents stimuli, and you will be asked to use the keyboard mouse or voice to provide your response. For example, you might be asked to identify a rapidly presented letter. 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.

#### **5. Can I withdraw once I've started?**

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part. Your decision will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at The University of Sydney. However, students who withdraw less than 24 hours before the registered time, will not receive any credit.

If you choose to withdraw, we will not collect any more information from you. Please let us know at the time you withdraw what you would like us to do with information we have collected about you up to that point.

#### **6. Are there any risks or costs?**

No. These are very low risk experiments. Aside from giving up your time, we do not expect that there will be any risks or costs associated with taking part in this study.

#### **7. Are there any benefits?**

The main direct benefit for students within the SONApsyc pool is being given course marks upon completion. Participants must make a serious attempt to complete the whole study to receive their benefit. If you withdraw less than 24 hours before the confirmed timeslot, or halfway through the experiment, you will not receive any credits. There are no direct financial benefits.

#### **8. What will happen to information that is collected?**

By providing your consent, you are agreeing to us collecting information about you for the purposes of this study.

Any information you provide us will be stored securely electronically and we will only disclose identifiable information with your permission unless we are required by law to release information. We are planning for the study findings to be published. You will not be individually identifiable in these publications.

We may submit the raw data from this project to an open access repository, and kept in perpetuity, 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.

#### **9. Will I be told the results of the study?**

You have a right to receive feedback about the overall results of this study. You may indicate you are interested in receiving feedback by providing your contact details on the consent form. This feedback will be in the form of a brief lay summary.

#### **10. What if I would like further information?**

When you have read this information, the following researcher/s will be available to discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have:

- Tess Guo; Psychology Honours Student, [tguo5242@uni.sydney.edu.au](mailto:tguo5242@uni.sydney.edu.au)

#### **11. What if I have a complaint or any concerns?**

The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of The University of Sydney [INSERT HREC Approval No. once obtained] according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*.

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:

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