

Participant Information Sheet

Researcher:

My name is Evan Calford, and I am a Senior Lecturer and John Mitchell Fellow at the Australian National University.

Project Title: Effect of Information on Experimentation Behaviour

General Outline of the Project:

- **Description and Methodology:** For this experiment, you will participate in a series of decision-making stages. In the first stage, you will answer questions about your willingness to consume various foods. You will be given a short description of each food (e.g. “assorted sandwiches”) as well as a list of potential allergens that may be in the food. In the second stage, you will have the opportunity to sample a food and then choose foods to consume from a given list. In the third and final stage, you will have the opportunity to consume the foods that you have chosen.
- **Participants:** You will not interact with any other participants over the course of this experiment. Participants will be recruited from the Research School of Economics Experimental Participant Sign-up System. A maximum of 150 participants will be able to complete the experiment.
- **Use of Data and Feedback:** The data will be used to produce peer-reviewed published articles and conference presentations. The research results will be made available, once the research is completed, on my research homepage: <https://sites.google.com/site/evancalford/>

Participant Involvement:

- **Voluntary Participation & Withdrawal:** Your participation in this research is voluntary, and you may decline to take part or withdraw from the research without providing an explanation at any time until the completion of the experiment (at which time data is stored in the database without any way to identify and remove your data). You may also decline to consume any food presented to you during the experiment. Within the research you may decline to answer any question about yourself. If you withdraw, the individual data you have provided prior to withdrawal will be destroyed and not used where feasible.

What does participation in the research entail? Your participation will begin with valuing the foods, making provisional choices, and completing a demographic survey online. You will proceed to a website link that we will provide, and you will complete the experiment at that website. We will record the decisions that you enter on the website, and you will enter your decisions using your mouse and/or keyboard. The food consumption portion of the experiment will occur on campus, outside in the Copland courtyard.

- **Location and Duration:** The experiment will take place online, via our website, and food consumption will take place on campus. The online experiment is expected to last (in total) approximately 30 to 60 minutes. The food consumption portion of the experiment is expected to take approximately 20 minutes.

Remuneration: You will be paid for your participation in this experiment. You will receive a fixed fee of \$20 if you complete the experiment. In addition, based on the choices you make during the experiment, you may receive some extra money and/or we will provide you with lunch.

- **Risks:** The online portion of this research does not involve any risks beyond that associated with everyday use of the internet. The tasks you will have to complete will not place you in any physical or psychological harm.

The food consumption part of this experiment does not involve any risks beyond those associated with consuming food at a typical catered conference or workshop. In particular, the food will be provided by a catering company who has previously supplied food for conferences and workshops on the ANU campus.

We will provide a list of allergens that are contained in each food so that you may manage your risk, in the same manner as you would when consuming any commercially produced food. The decisions that you make during the experiment will directly affect the foods that you are given to consume. If you are allergic to dairy, for example, then you can make choices of foods that do not contain dairy. Similarly, if you have other dietary requirements, including medical requirements, you can make appropriate choices during the experiment.

At no point in the experiment will you be required to consume any foods. Instead, you will be given the opportunity to consume food.

To help you gauge your risk in participating, the following foods will be available:

1. Sandwiches and wraps (contains wheat, gluten, dairy, may be traces of nuts)
2. Hot assorted tarts (contains wheat, gluten, dairy, egg, onion, garlic, may be traces of nuts)
3. Salads/rice paper rolls (may contain wheat, gluten, dairy, nuts, onion, garlic)
4. Hot fork dishes (contains onion, garlic, may contain traces of nuts)

Importantly, because our commercial food vendor uses nuts in some dishes, they cannot guarantee that any dish is free from traces of nuts.

- **Benefits:** It is unlikely that you will personally benefit from participation in this research. However, the work will improve our understanding of how information affects the decisions humans make in economic environments.

Exclusion criteria:

- **Participant Limitation:** All participants must be previously enrolled in the RSE Sona Experimental participant sign-up system.

Confidentiality:

- **Confidentiality:** We will keep your identity confidential as far as allowed by law. Once your data is recorded into our database it will not be possible to identify your data. Record of your participation in the experiment will be kept separately from the experimental data.

Privacy Notice:

In collecting your personal information within this research, the ANU must comply with the Privacy Act 1988. The ANU Privacy Policy is available at https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppi/document/ANUP_010007 and it contains information about how a person can:

- Access or seek correction to their personal information;
- Complain about a breach of an Australian Privacy Principle by ANU, and how ANU will handle the complaint.

Data Storage:

- **Where:** Identifying data will be stored on password protected computers in the research school of economics. The non-identified data may be stored on researcher's laptops to facilitate

working from home in accordance with current and future COVID restrictions. The non-identified data may also be stored in data repositories in accordance with the requirements of any peer reviewed journals in which the research may be published.

- **How long:** All research data will be retained and securely stored for at least one year following any publication of this work.
- **Handling of Data following the required storage period:** After the storage period, the non-identified data may continue to be stored in data repositories in accordance with the requirements of any peer reviewed journals in which the research may be published.

Queries and Concerns:

- **Contact Details for More Information:** Any requests for information or queries regarding the study participants should be directed to Evan Calford (Evan.Calford@anu.edu.au, + 61 414 605 494).

Ethics Committee Clearance:

The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (Protocol 2021/422). If you have any concerns or complaints about how this research has been conducted, please contact:

Ethics Manager
The ANU Human Research Ethics Committee
The Australian National University
Telephone: +61 2 6125 3427
Email: Human.Ethics.Officer@anu.edu.au