

## **Participant Information Leaflet**

**Study Title:** Choice Game

**Investigator(s):** Sarah Joseph, Wenjia Joyce Zhao

### **Introduction**

You are invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide, you need to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take the time to read the following information carefully. Talk to others about the study if you wish.

Please 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.

### **Who is organising and funding the study?**

The study is conducted as part of an MSc Dissertation from the University of Warwick. The study is funded by the university and not an external body.

### **What is the study about?**

The purpose of this study is to understand how people make choices when presented with multiple options with different monetary payoffs or costs.

### **What would taking part involve?**

In this study, which will last for about 15-20 minutes, you will complete a multiple-round choice game. At the beginning of each round, you will start with a certain number of tokens. You will then repeatedly choose between two options, which lead to different outcomes (gaining or losing different numbers of tokens). The number of tokens you have in the end of each round will determine your bonus payment. You will be presented with 4 rounds consisting of 50 trials each.

For each round, the screen will show two options without any descriptions. Participants are required to choose between the two options for a certain number of trials to explore the options and draw their own insights about the options. The options may indicate losses or gains which will result in the increase or decrease of the tokens the participants will accumulate during the study.

The participants' choices during the trials of the round and the response times for each round will be recorded during the study.

### **Do I have to take part?**

No. Participation in this study is completely voluntary and choosing not to take part will not affect you [or your medical care/student grades etc.] in any way. You can

also choose to withdraw your participation without giving a reason by closing the browser. Further details about withdrawing from the study are provided later on in this document.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part in this study?**

There are no direct benefits of this study to the participants. The study is used to determine the various effects and differences of losses and gains on the search behaviour in experienced based decision making tasks.

### **What are the possible disadvantages, side effects or risks, of taking part in this study?**

There are no possible disadvantages, direct risks or side effects of this study to the participants.

### **Expenses and payments**

You will receive £2 for participating in the study, which is expected to take approximately 15 to 20 minutes. Additionally, based on your choices in the task, you will receive a variable bonus ranging from £0 to £2. The instructions will provide more details regarding the bonus.

### **Will my taking part be kept confidential?**

No personal contact data (name, address, phone number, email, etc) will be collected from you ensuring the anonymity of your data. Your Prolific account number will be deleted after remuneration is distributed. During the data collection period, your data will be stored securely on password-protected computers. The data will only be accessed by the researchers and supervisors named above and will not be shared with any other organisations.

### **What will happen to the data collected about me?**

As a publicly-funded organisation, the University of Warwick have to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information from people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, such as this, we will use your data in the ways needed to conduct and analyse the research study. Any data you have provided will be stored according to the University of Warwick's Research Data Management Policy, meaning that the data will be stored securely for at least 10 years. This is to permit inspection of these anonymized data, if requested.

We will be using information from you in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. We are committed to protecting the rights of individuals in line with data protection legislation.

The data collected will be used for research purposes only. No personal contact data (name, address, phone number, email, etc) will be collected. Your Prolific account

number will be deleted after remuneration is distributed. Your study data will be stored under an individual code number which cannot be linked to you once your remuneration is completed.

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. The University of Warwick has in place policies and procedures to keep your data safe.

This data may also be used for future research, including impact activities following review and approval by an independent Research Ethics Committee and subject to your consent at the outset of this research project.

For further information, please refer to the University of Warwick Research Privacy Notice which is available here:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/idc/dataprotection/privacynotices/researchprivacynotice> or by contacting the Legal and Compliance Team at [GDPR@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:GDPR@warwick.ac.uk).

### **What will happen if I don't want to carry on being part of the study?**

Your participation is voluntary, and you are free to leave the study at any point without explanation and without any of your rights being affected. You have the right to omit or refuse

to answer or respond to any question that is asked of you. You may withdraw from the study at any moment simply by closing your browser window. If you wish to withdraw from the study during the experiment, the data collected up to that point will not be used for the current work or for any future work. However, once you complete the study, it won't be possible to withdraw your data. Data will be automatically anonymized at completion, therefore it won't be possible to identify it for deletion.

### **What will happen to the results of the study?**

Your anonymized data may be used for publication in academic and/or professional journals,

**for dissemination at academic or professional conferences, and made available to the scientific community for further analysis. Your anonymized data may also be re-used by the researchers or by other investigators** in further scientific studies.

### **Who has reviewed the study?**

This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by the University of Warwick's Humanities and Social Science Research Ethics Committee (HSSREC).

### **Who should I contact if I want further information?**

If you have any questions about this study, please contact the named researcher Sarah Joseph ([Sarah.Joseph@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:Sarah.Joseph@warwick.ac.uk)) or their supervisor for this project: Wenjia Joyce Zhao ([wenjia-joyce.zhao@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:wenjia-joyce.zhao@warwick.ac.uk))

### **Who should I contact if I wish to make a complaint?**

Any complaint about the way you have been dealt with during the study or any possible harm you might have suffered will be addressed. Please address your complaint to the person below, who is a senior University of Warwick official entirely independent of this study:

**Head of Research Governance**

Research & Impact Services

University House

University of Warwick

Coventry

CV4 8UW

Email: [researchgovernance@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:researchgovernance@warwick.ac.uk)

Tel: 02476 575733

If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter:

[DPO@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:DPO@warwick.ac.uk).

If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are processing your personal data in a way that is not lawful you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

**Thank you for taking the time to read this Participant Information Leaflet**