



### **Participant Information Sheet**

#### Media use and information processing

Dear Participant,

We would like to invite you to participate in our research project conducted by researchers at the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit at the University of Cambridge. This study has been reviewed by the University of Cambridge Research Ethics Committee: *PRE.2024.059*.

#### **What is this study about?**

This *two-session project* led by Dr Amy Orben examines how people interact with digital technologies in their daily lives and aims to broader understanding of modern technology use.

#### **Why are we doing this study?**

As digital technologies become increasingly prevalent in society, it's important to understand how people engage with these tools.

#### **Who can take part in this study?**

You can take part in this study if you meet **all** of the following criteria:

1. You are between 18 and 27 years of age.
2. You have a TikTok account, and the application installed on your phone.
3. You do not have a neurological condition (e.g., epilepsy, multiple sclerosis).

#### **What will happen in the study?**

If you choose to participate, you will complete **two in-person testing sessions that are spaced six to eight days apart and scheduled at the same time of the day**. For instance, if you have your first session at 9 am on Thursday, your second session will be scheduled for 9 am on the Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday the week after. You receive a bonus payment upon completing the second session, and the contents of the two sessions are described below:

Session 1	Session 2
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. You will read this information letter and will be asked to provide consent.</li><li>2. You will complete questions about demographics (e.g., age) and mental and physical health.</li><li>3. You will play a game (on the computer) during which you can accumulate points by repeating fast button presses.</li><li>4. You will read magazines or use digital media depending on the points you accumulated in the game.</li><li>5. You will complete questions about your experience in this research.</li><li>6. Upon completion of the first session (approx. 60 minutes) you will be reimbursed for your participation (£10).</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. You will read this information letter and will be asked to provide consent.</li><li>2. You will play a game (on the computer) during which you can accumulate points by repeating fast button presses.</li><li>3. You will read magazines or use digital media depending on the points you accumulated in the game.</li><li>4. You will complete questions about your experience in this research.</li><li>5. You will complete several questionnaires on wellbeing and technology.</li><li>6. Upon completion of the second session (approx. 75 minutes) you will be reimbursed for your participation (£12.5) and receive a bonus payment for completing both sessions (£7.5), for a total of £30 across sessions.</li></ol>



### What data will be collected during the study?

We will collect the following data:

1. *Questionnaire data*: We will collect key demographic information (i.e., age, gender, and socio-economic status), health and well-being data, and information on your digital media use (i.e., screen time on TikTok).
2. *Behavioural task*: We will collect behavioural data that you provide during a computerised task.

### What will happen to my personal information?

You will provide us with two types of data. *Personal data*, which includes your age and gender: information from which you could be identified and that we use to calculate your age, and so on. *Research data* includes information like your questionnaire responses.

*Personal data* will be stored separately from research data and will be kept in locked, password-protected databases. Only a unique ID code will connect personal with research data. Personal data will be retained for about 15 years and only fully GDPR-trained researchers associated with this project will ever have access to your personal data.

Upon concluding the research, the resulting *research data* may be shared with other researchers. Anonymized *research data* may be kept indefinitely, and may be shared in public data repositories, published in scientific journals, and aggregated with research from other studies to investigate novel questions.

### Voluntary participation

If you now decide not to participate in this study, you will not be affected in any way. If you decide during the study to discontinue your participation, you can do so at any time, without giving any reasons and without any consequences.

### What are the risks of taking part?

This study poses no immediate risk. Some of the survey questions will ask about well-being and you can stop the survey anytime if you feel stressed about answering these questions. We will also provide a list of mental health support contacts you can contact in case you feel unwell

### What are the benefits of taking part?

You will receive **£30** for completing both sessions of this research.

### What will happen to the results of this research?

We will provide a summary and final report upon request. In this summary, your identity will not be used. General information about how the University uses personal data is available here: <https://www.information-compliance.admin.cam.ac.uk/data-protection/research-participant-data>.

### Can I change my mind about participation?

If you decide not to participate in this study, you will not be affected in any way. If you decide to discontinue your participation in the study, you can do so at any time without giving reasons. If you decide to withdraw from the study, you can let us know whether you want us to delete your data. You will receive a confirmation email when this has been successfully done. However, after results have been made available online, it may be impossible to delete the anonymized record of your data. Therefore, to guarantee we are able to fully delete your data, please contact us as soon as possible after study participation.



MRC Cognition  
and Brain  
Sciences Unit



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**What if I feel something went wrong?**

If you have any concerns about any aspect of the study, please contact Lukas Gunschera ([lukas.gunschera@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:lukas.gunschera@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk)). If you feel the research team has not dealt with your concerns to your satisfaction, you may lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office at <https://ico.org.uk/>, or contact the Cambridge Psychology Research Ethics committee ([SBSEthics@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:SBSEthics@admin.cam.ac.uk)).

**Local Data Protection Privacy Notice**

The data controller for this project will be the University of Cambridge. The data protection officer provides oversight of the University's activities involving the processing of personal data and can be contacted at [dpo@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:dpo@admin.cam.ac.uk).

Kind Regards,

Dr Orben,  
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