

Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences

Plain Language Statement

PROJECT TITLE: Visual Statistical Learning

A/Prof Amy Perfors (Responsible Researcher) email: amy.perfors@unimelb.edu;

tel: 03 9035 6032

Ms Rachel Yam (Student researcher) email: yamr@student.unimelb.edu.au

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in participating in this research project. The following few pages will provide you with further information about the project, so that you can decide if you would like to take part in this research.

Please take the time to read this information carefully. You may ask questions about anything you don't understand or want to know more about.

Your participation is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to. If you begin participating, you can also stop at any time.

The purpose of this project is to acquire data about how people process stimuli visually. The data will be used to better understand the mechanism of visual statistical learning and why some people are better at it than others.

What will I be asked to do?

After answering some optional demographic questions, you will be shown a sequence of items that flash on the screen one-by-one. Just watch the items as they go by, without writing them down, but write down any English words you see that are embedded within the sequence (as we will use it to verify that you were paying attention). After the sequence ends, you will be asked simple questions about the items. Thereafter, you will watch items flashing on the screen and will be required to indicate which one you think you saw first. A 5-minute break will then be issued and you will repeat the above tasks with a different set of stimuli and questions. This is a hard task so just do your best; we're interested in how people naturally process things they see.

What are the risks?

Risks are minimal. The study does take 40 minutes or so and thus represents a time investment. It is also not the most exciting thing in the world, so there is some risk of boredom and fatigue from viewing the stream of stimuli flashing on the screen. However, we do allow breaks in between tasks.

What are the benefits?

There has been a recent interest in the field of visual statistical learning and thus data is limited about the way it operates and how it links to our cognition and behaviour. The purpose of this study is to fill the gap in literature and also to better model and understand individual differences in visual statistical learning. This could potentially lead to more nuanced and effective educational interventions as well as learning techniques. You will be given credits under the Research Experience Program for your participation.

How would my confidentiality be protected?

As a first year Psychology major, we do not have access to identifying personal details. You will be asked to contribute some demographic details but these are optional. Our sample size will be large, making it even more difficult to identify any one person.

What if I want to withdraw from the Research?

Participation in this research is completely voluntary. You are free to withdraw at any time without penalty (other than not getting credits). Your data will not be used in the full sample unless you complete the experiment.

Will I hear about the results of this project?

A summary of the findings from this study will be sent to you via e-mail when the project has been completed.

Where can I get further information?

If you would like more information about the project, please contact the researchers: A/Prof Amy Perfors (Responsible Researcher) at amy.perfors@unimelb.edu or Ms Rachel Yam (Student researcher) at yamr@student.unimelb.edu.au.

Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?

This research project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Melbourne. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Manager, Human Research Ethics, Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 3 8344 2073 or Email: humanethics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.

How do I agree to participate?

If you wish to participate please read and click 'Next' after reading the consent form on the next page.