**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET – Neural mechanisms of decision-making and self-evaluation (EEG)**

**UCL Ethics Committee approval ID Number: 8231/001**

**Department:** Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging, 12 Queen Square, London WC1N 3BG

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You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide to take part it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Please take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

**What is the purpose of the research?**

We are interested in how people think and make decisions. This study aims to improve our understanding of these processes by asking volunteers to perform simple computer-based tasks while their brain is being scanned.

**What does the study involve?**

We will measure your EEG. In order for us to do this, you will be asked to wear a cap with electrodes on your head during the experiment. A conductive gel is also used. Setting up the cap and obtaining a good signal may take up to 60 minutes. After the preparation you will be asked to make decisions about the characteristics of simple objects or sounds. You may be also asked to answer some questions about yourself and your experience of the tests. Your responses and button presses will be recorded. Having practised the task, and having asked any questions, you will then be asked to perform the same task while EEG is recorded. The experiment will take up to 90 minutes. You may want to wash your hair afterwards to remove the bits of conductive gel left behind in your hair. We have a hand-held shower, clean towels, haircare products, and a hair dryer for you to use. Overall, your visit at the Centre will last up to 2.5 hours.

**Are there any side effects?**

In order to get good signal of your brain activity we need to prepare your skin at the sites where the electrodes will be placed. This may require a gentle abrasion procedure to remove old skin flakes. We will also use conductive gel to ensure conductance between your skin and the electrodes. Some people may feel mild discomfort during the abrasion procedure. The experimenter will check with you if you are feeling any discomfort and the procedure can be immediately stopped at any time. In rare cases, the abrasion procedure can cause skin irritation or even infection. We apply the highest hygiene standards (washing and disinfecting all used instruments, electrodes and caps before use) to prevent any problems of this sort.

**Are there any benefits to taking part?**

There will be no direct benefit to you from taking part in this research. However, your data may contribute important theoretical information to our understanding of how the brain works, and in the future may aid attempts at rehabilitation in patients with brain injury or disease.

**What happens to my data?**

To help future research and make the best use of the research data you have given us (such as answers to questionnaires) we may keep your research data indefinitely and share these. The data we collect will be shared and held as follows:

* In publications, your data will be anonymised, so you cannot be identified.
* In public databases, your data will be anonymised or pseudonymised (your personal details will be removed and a code used e.g. 00001232, instead of your name)
* Personal data is any information that could be used to identify you. This includes your contact details, which will be held securely at UCL and will never be shared. Your personal data will be deleted or destroyed as soon as it is deemed redundant.
* With accredited researchers, this may have personal data within it, such as your date of birth, but we will never share your contact details.

The legal basis used to process your personal data is that the research you are taking part in is deemed to be in the public interest. The legal basis used to process special category personal data (about your personality, political opinions and/or mental health) will be for purposes of scientific research. We will follow UCL and legal guidelines to safeguard your data.

Further information on how UCL uses participant information can be found here:

[www.ucl.ac.uk/legal-services/privacy/participants-health-and-care-research-privacy-notice](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/legal-services/privacy/participants-health-and-care-research-privacy-notice)

**Who funds this research?**

Our work is funded by medical charities such as the Wellcome Trust, and government bodies such as the Medical Research Council, and the European Union.

**Who has reviewed this research?**

A Research Ethics Committee reviews all proposals for research using human participants before they can proceed. This research has been approved by the University College London Research Ethics Committee.

**Complaints**

If you wish to complain or have any concerns about any aspect of the way you have been approached or treated by members of staff, then the UCL research complaints mechanisms are available to you. In the first instance, please talk to the researcher or the chief investigator (Stephen Fleming, [stephen.fleming@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:stephen.fleming@ucl.ac.uk)) about your complaint. If you feel that the complaint has not been resolved satisfactorily, please contact the chair of the UCL Research Ethics Committee ([ethics@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ethics@ucl.ac.uk)).

If you are concerned about how your personal data are being processed please contact the data controller at UCL: [data-protection@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@ucl.ac.uk). If you remain unsatisfied, you may wish to contact the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO). Contact details, and details of data subject rights, are available on the ICO website at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-reform/overview-of-the-gdpr/individuals-rights/>

**What do I do if I do not want to take part anymore?**

You can stop taking part at any time and without giving a reason. If you decide not to take part anymore this will not affect any medical care you are receiving or may need in the future. If you withdraw from this study, you can still take part in the other studies. Any research data that we have already collected may still be used, unless you request that it is destroyed. However, once unidentifiable data and research results have been anonymised and shared it may not be possible for them to be destroyed, withdrawn or recalled.

If you change your mind and withdraw your consent to participate in this study please inform the researcher.