

Visual search amongst moving items

Participant Information Sheet (PIS)

This PIS should be read in together with [The University privacy notice](#)

You are being invited to take part in a research study that looks at how we search for things. Before you decide whether or not to take part, it is important for you to understand why and how the research is being done. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. If you have any questions about this study, please contact us on matea.balabanovska@student.manchester.ac.uk. Please take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Who will conduct the research?

Matea Balabanovska, Dr Johan Hulleman, Dr Gorana Pobric, and Prof. Jonathan Green. We are all researchers from the University of Manchester:

What is the purpose of the research?

Visual search is finding something by using your eyes. We want to find out how visual search works. The results from this experiment will help us to understand how people find things. We want to know whether people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) search in a different way. To this end, you will also complete a computer-based version of the AQ-questionnaire. This questionnaire will ask you 50 questions about your social skills, how you switch attention, your attention to detail, how you communicate and how you imagine.

Why have I been chosen?

You are 17 years or older and you have a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and you have let us know that you might want to take part.

What would I be asked to do if I took part?

If you agree to take part, we ask you a few questions about your daily activities. Then, you will be asked to do the visual search. You will search for a target letter T in a group of letter L's. The letters are either static or moving. You should answer as quickly and accurately as you can whether the T is present or not. Your responses will be recorded via a game pad, and where you look on the screen will be recorded with an eye tracker. The experiment will last approximately 90 min and there will be lots of breaks. There are no known risks of taking part.

What will happen to my personal information?

To do the experiment, we will need to collect the following personal information/data about you:

- Name
- Date of Birth
- Gender
- Handedness

Only the researchers conducting the study will have access to this information.

We are collecting and storing this personal information in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 which legislate to protect your personal information. The legal basis upon which we are using your personal information is “public interest task” and “for research purposes” if sensitive information is collected. For more information about the way we process your personal information and comply with data protection law please see our [Privacy Notice for Research Participants](#).

The University of Manchester, as Data Controller for this project, takes responsibility for the protection of the personal information that this study is collecting about you. In order to comply with the legal obligations to protect your personal data the University has safeguards in place such as policies and procedures. All researchers are appropriately trained and your data will be looked after in the following way: Researchers who are collecting your data will anonymise it on the day you participate. Your consent form and any paper documents containing personal information will be retained for 5 years in locked filing cabinets at the University. Any electronic files containing recognisable participant details will be password protected or stored on the University of Manchester’s secure research data storage system and retained for 5 years. All University-owned laptops will be encrypted, and no personal or confidential University data will be stored on unencrypted personal laptops, computers, memory sticks or other portable devices in order to ensure the security of all personal data collected.

You have a number of rights under data protection law regarding your personal information. For example you can request a copy of the information we hold about you. This is known as a Subject Access Request. If you would like to know more about your different rights, please consult our [privacy notice for research](#) and if you wish to contact us about your data protection rights, please email dataprotection@manchester.ac.uk or write to The Information Governance Office, Christie Building, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, M13 9PL. at the University and we will guide you through the process of exercising your rights.

You also have a right to complain to the [Information Commissioner’s Office](#), Tel 0303 123 1113

Will my participation in the study be confidential?

Your participation in the study will be kept confidential to the study team and those with access to your personal information as listed above. All information which is collected about you during the course of the research will have your name removed so that you cannot be recognised from it. Your data will be linked via an assigned ID only known to the research team.

What happens if I do not want to take part or if I change my mind?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without detriment to yourself. However, it will not be possible to remove your data from the project once the data collection period has finished.

Will I be paid for participating in the research?

You will receive £10 per session in Tesco vouchers and travel expenses (public transport) of up to £10.

What is the duration of the research?

90 minutes with plenty of breaks.

Where will the research be conducted?

Eye-tracking lab, 1st floor Zochonis building, The University of Manchester

Will the outcomes of the research be published?

The results of the research will be written up as an undergraduate project as well as for publication in academic journals and on websites. The results may also be presented as talks or posters at academic conferences and support groups. You will not be identified in any reports.

Who has reviewed the research project?

The project has been reviewed by the University of Manchester Research Ethics Committee 1 (UREC1).

What if I want to make a complaint?

Minor complaints

If you have a minor complaint then you need to contact the researcher(s) in the first instance: **Dr Gorana Pobric, Zochonis Building, Dover Street, Manchester, M13 9PL, gorana.pobric@manchester.ac.uk**

Formal Complaints

If you wish to make a formal complaint or if you are not satisfied with the response you have gained from the researchers in the first instance then please contact

The Research Governance and Integrity Manager, Research Office, Christie Building, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL, by emailing: research.complaints@manchester.ac.uk or by telephoning 0161 275 2674.

What Do I Do Now?

If you have any queries about the study or if you are interested in taking part, then please contact the researcher(s)

Matea Balabanovska matea.balabanovska@student.manchester.ac.uk

Johan Hulleman, Zochonis Building, Dover Street, Manchester, M13 9PL, johan.hulleman@manchester.ac.uk

Gorana Pobric , Zochonis Building, Dover Street, Manchester, M13 9PL, gorana.pobric@manchester.ac.uk

This Project Has Been Approved by the University of Manchester Research Ethics Committee 1 (UREC1).