School of Psychology

Participant Panel Information Leaflet

Would you like to take part in studies at the University of Aberdeen?

We are looking for volunteers to participate in psychological studies. If it sounds like something you want to be involved in (and you are at least 18 years old), please read the information below, and sign up online. You may be then contacted by researchers at the School of Psychology who obtained ethical clearance to use the Participant Panel for their study.

What kind of studies might I be asked to participate in?

Our researchers use a wide range of methodologies to study the complex dynamics of brain and mind, exploring, among other things, how we see, remember, learn, and interact with each other. Some studies are carried out online and you'll be able to participate from the comfort of your home. Others will involve coming into the University to complete a set of tasks or to participate in a focus group and share your thoughts and experiences.

Here are some examples of the studies carried out in the School:

How we decide who to trust?

What makes food look appealing?

Did the COVID-19 pandemic affect our memories?

Sometimes our research involves measurements of eye-movements, body movements, or brain activity during real-life tasks or even in virtual reality. You may be able to experience cutting-edge technology while contributing to science.

Why does this matter?

It may not seem so at first, but your contribution to our research is invaluable. It is simply impossible to complete a psychological study without the help of participants. While student volunteers are a valuable resource, the scope and depth of our research would be significantly limited without the participation of the local community. As psychologists, we are dedicated to including people from diverse backgrounds and with broad range of experiences in our research to ensure our conclusions don't overlook anyone. The data you help produce is transformed into knowledge about human mind and brain, which, over time, has the potential to effect meaningful change in society.

How do I join?

To join the panel please fill out an online form. It asks for your contact details and contains some questions about you and your health. You can answer as few or as many questions as you like. Once you submit your responses, you may be contacted by researchers about participation in their studies. You can always withdraw from the panel or update your information by emailing researchadmin@abdn.ac.uk

How will I be contacted?

You will normally be contacted by email or telephone. The person contacting you will always identify themselves as belonging to the School of Psychology at the University.

How often will I be contacted?

It depends on the number of studies being conducted, and the recruitment criteria for those studies. It is unlikely you will be contacted more often than every few months.

How much of my time will it take?

Each study is different. Most often an individual study will take around two hours of your time. For some studies there might be more than one session involved. You will be given information about the study and the time commitment involved when the researcher contacts you. You can decline to take part in any study you are contacted about. If you do want to take part, the researcher will arrange an appointment that is convenient for you.

Will I be compensated for my time?

For most studies, there will be a small reimbursement to compensate for your time. You will be given information about this when you are initially contacted to take part in each study.

How are my contact details stored?

If you become part of the panel we keep your contact details in a secure database in the School of Psychology, which is only accessed by the Research Administrator. Your details will only be shared with qualified researchers at the School of Psychology who obtained a specific Ethical approval to contact the members of Participant Panel for their study.

Who should I ask if I have any questions?

Please contact the Research Administrator(researchadmin@abdn.ac.uk).