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**Department of Psychology**

Further Information and Screening Questionnaire for EEG Experiments

**What is EEG?**

Electroencephalography (EEG) is a technique for recording electrical signals at the scalp. In the study in which you are invited to participate, electrical signals will be recorded from many locations on your head while you perform an experimental task. This will enable us to investigate the relationships between the experimental stimuli, your responses, and the electrical activity in your brain. EEG does not do anything to your brain in anyway, it simply allows us to read electrical signals from your brain which arise naturally with neural activity.

For further information on the technique, you might like to can consult:

<http://imaging.mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk/meg/IntroEEGMEG>

or

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electroencephalography>

EEG recording is a very safe procedure that carries minimal risks to participants. However, there are some issues we would like to bring to your attention, so please read the following paragraphs carefully. If you have any questions, email us and we can discuss your questions further.

**What will happen if I agree to take part?**

1. You will be asked to wear a stretchable electrode cap containing many electrodes (small suctions that sit on the scalp) and electrodes placed on the skin around the eyes, which record muscle activity (such as blinks).

2. Each electrode will be filled with a salt-based gel and the skin underneath may, if necessary, be rubbed lightly with a blunt syringe to ensure we obtain a good signal. Some people can find this process irritating, but most do not. It should not be painful, and you can ask the experimenter to stop at any time. After the cap is removed you will have small dots of gel on your scalp, so you may wish to wash your hair afterwards. We can provide towels and shampoo and there are facilities to wash your hair in the lab.

3. The cap set up can be time-consuming and can take between 20-40 minutes prior to the start of the experiment. This time has been factored into the session duration.

**Before you come to the experiment**

Some factors affect the signal obtained in EEG. To prevent problems, before arriving, please:

1. Ensure your hair is clean and completely dry
2. Avoid using styling products, such as gel or hairspray
3. Remove any objects from your hair, such as hair grips
4. Avoid dying your hair in the week prior to the experiment

This document is for your information so that you can decide whether you would like to participate in EEG research. This is not a consent form. When you come to do the experiment you will be reminded of the important points and asked to give your consent to participate in the research.

If you decide that you do wish to participate in the experiment, we must ask you about a number of medical factors which are relevant to safety and accuracy of EEG recording. You will not necessarily be considered ineligible for participation based on a “Yes” answer. Please answer to the best of your knowledge so that we can decide whether you should take part in the EEG research. We will not disclose this information to any other person.

If possible, please email the completed form or bring it with you when you attend the EEG experiment. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact [experimenter’s name and email address].

**What is required from you**

As a scientific study it is imperative that we record good quality data, so it is important that you remain alert and attentive during the behavioural testing, and follow instructions carefully.

You also need to fulfil certain requirements to be able to participate in this study. You: -

* Should not be currently taking any psycho-active medication
* Should have no prior history of drug or alcohol abuse, neurological, psychiatric or sleep disorders
* Have a sleep-wake pattern where you would typically rise by at least 9am each morning, after a duration of at least 6 hours sleep per night or longer
* Be a non-smoker
* Refrain from any alcoholic drinks and caffeinated products 24 hours before each session

If you do not fulfil one or more of these, then you will not be able to take part in the experiment and you should **not** provide any further explanation or information.

In addition, there is a very small possibility that the recordings may indicate some form of anomaly. We must stress that this highly unlikely, that we are not experts in clinical/medical diagnosis, and that we are not intentionally looking for such evidence. Nonetheless, if we do find such evidence we would seek expert help before taking the matter further. On these grounds, in agreeing to take part, you are also agreeing to be informed if some form of anomaly is suspected. If you do not wish to be so informed then you cannot take part in the experiment.