

Participant Information Sheet

Study Title: Validation of egocentric distance perception in reality and virtual reality in vista space

Researcher: Matthew Blyth

ERGO number: 26625

Please read this information carefully before deciding to take part in this research. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.

What is the research about?

This doctoral research project is part of a wider body of work investigating fitness for duty in the armed forces. Future experiments are likely to require the use of virtual reality headsets, so the aim of this experiment is to explore if the utility of this approach. This experiment compares the accuracy of distance estimations between yourself and a target in both reality and virtual reality. This research is funded by the Ministry of Defence.

Why have I been asked to participate?

You have been asked to take part in the experiment because you are aged 18-40, generally healthy and have normal or corrected vision.

What will happen to me if I take part?

There are two testing sessions. One of the sessions is carried out at the University in the Hearing and Balance Centre. The other session will take place on Southampton Common. The task in both sessions is to observe a target person and verbally report how far away they are from you. This will be repeated with the target at several distances, ranging from 25 m to 150 m. For the session at the University, you will be using a virtual reality headset to view the same scene as on the Common and will carry out the same distance estimation task. Each session will take around 45 mins.

Are there any benefits in my taking part?

By taking part in the study you will be increasing our understanding of how accurately distance is estimated in virtual reality compared to in reality. You will also be reimbursed £20 for completing both sessions. There will also be a prize of an additional £20 for the participant whose distance estimations are closest to the true distances.

Are there any risks involved?

Some subjects can experience adverse effects whilst wearing virtual reality headsets, such as nausea or headaches. These symptoms are typically evoked when the movement in the virtual environment does not match the movement experienced in real life. As you will be completely stationary in both reality and virtual reality, it is unlikely these symptoms will occur. However, should you experience any discomfort, you may stop the experiment and cease your participation should you wish to.

Will my participation be confidential?

Your data will be confidential and stored anonymously and will be compliant with the Data Protection Act. Only members of the research team will have access to it. Your data will not be identifiable by name.

What should I do if I want to take part?

If you would like to take part in this research, please get in touch with Matthew Blyth via email, using the following address: M.Blyth@soton.ac.uk.

What happens if I change my mind?

You can withdraw at any time without your rights being affected at any point throughout the experiment. Your data will not be included unless you complete the experiment. You should note that payment will only be made when all testing is completed.

What will happen to the results of the research?

The results from this experiment will be used to inform further studies by the fitness for duty research team. It is anticipated that the results will be published in a peer reviewed journal. If you wish to receive a copy of any publications from this experiment, please inform the researcher. Your data will be stored for a minimum of 10 years, as per the University's policy.

Where can I get more information?

If you require more information, please contact Matthew Blyth via email (M.Blyth@soton.ac.uk).

What happens if something goes wrong?

In the unlikely case of concern or complaint, you should contact the Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk).

Thank you.

Thank the individual for taking the time to read the information sheet and considering taking part in the research.