

Participant Information Sheet

Study Title: Effects of dyslexia on writing.

Researcher: Sophie Hall

ERGO number: 46126

You are being invited to take part in the above research study. To help you decide whether you would like to take part or not, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the information below carefully and ask questions if anything is not clear or you would like more information before you decide to take part in this research. You may like to discuss it with others but 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?

I am a PhD student in the Southampton Education School and I am conducting this research to investigate the processes involved in writing, with a view to assessing whether, and if so how, these differ for students with and without dyslexia. This research is designed to deepen our understanding of how dyslexia affects writing, with the aim, ultimately, of developing better support for students with dyslexia.

This work is funded by the South Coast Doctoral Training Partnership through the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). ESRC funded projects aim to produce real world impact that can make a positive difference to people's lives. More information about the ESRC can be found at <https://esrc.ukri.org/> .

Why have I been asked to participate?

You have been approached to take part in this study because you are a student currently studying at the University of Southampton. You may or may not have a dyslexia diagnosis. As this study is looking to compare and contrast the writing processes used by writers with and without dyslexia, I am looking for students with and without dyslexia to take part in the study.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you decide to take part in this study, you will be asked to complete some independent tasks on your own computer and to attend two Microsoft Teams video call sessions. The independent tasks must be completed in one session which will take you approximately one hour. The independent tasks will require you to download some free software onto your personal computer (small amount of disk space required). These tasks must be completed before your first video call session. The independent tasks and the first video call session will involve several literacy baseline tests.

If after the first video call session (which will take approximately ½ an hour) you are happy to continue to take part in the project, you will be invited back for a second video call session. The second session involves taking part in a writing experiment. During this session, you will be asked to plan and write an essay about a current affairs topic under controlled conditions. The essays will be typed on your computer, during which time your typing patterns will be logged using keystroke logging software which you will download prior to writing the essay. In total, the second study session will take approximately 1 ½ hours. Both study sessions will take place over a Microsoft Teams video call which will be set up by the researcher. You will be contacted by the researcher about times and dates for each of your sessions.

Are there any benefits in my taking part?

By taking part in this study, you will be adding to the current academic knowledge base we have about the processes involved in writing and how they are affected by dyslexia. In the future, the evidence obtained from this study, along with other writing studies, could lead to developments in the academic provision for students in higher education in general, as well as to the development of support for students with dyslexia.

If you are a student taking at least one module in psychology, you can obtain participatory credits for taking part in this study. All participants will also be given the option to enter into a prize draw. This will give you the chance of winning one of 5 x £100 Amazon vouchers.

Are there any risks involved?

Throughout this study, you will complete several cognitive assessments and timed tasks. You may find some of them mildly frustrating or mildly anxiety provoking. However, we would not expect this to be greater than you would experience during your normal academic work. If you find doing the tasks an adverse experience, then you can stop doing them at any time without any penalty.

Evaluation of your test results and essays may provoke some anxiety. However, this should be similar to your experience of academic assessments, and will not be made public. Your test results and essays will be anonymous. Only the researcher will know who you are. All of your study data will be linked with a unique identity number, rather than your name. This means that nobody will be able to trace the study data back to you.

It is very unlikely that you will feel frustrated or anxious after completing the study. However, if you do, you can contact the researcher (Sophie Hall) using the email address at the end of this document to highlight your concerns.

The University's Enabling Services also offer wellbeing support for students. See below for information on their services:

Enabling services website:

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/edusupport/index.page?>

Dyslexia and study support:

https://www.southampton.ac.uk/edusupport/study_support/index.page

Mental health and wellbeing:

https://www.southampton.ac.uk/edusupport/mental_health_and_wellbeing/index.page

You will be asked to download some free keystroke logging software (Inputlog) which will be used to track your writing during the essay component of this experiment. It will also be used to create a baseline measure of your typing speed. Inputlog is a well-established, safe and secure keystroke logging software which is used frequently within writing research. It will only track your keystrokes within a specific text editor, and cannot trace information such as usernames, passwords, or any other data from external programs.

What data will be collected?

The list below outlines exactly what data will be collected from you by the researcher (Sophie Hall). This data will be anonymised and therefore will not be traceable back to you.

General information: Age, university course, year of study, dyslexic or not dyslexic.

Literacy skills tests: Scores on a range of tests relating to your reading and writing ability.

Essay writing task: Your initial written essay plans will be kept. Your keyboard keystrokes will be logged throughout the duration of the essay writing task for statistical analysis. Your final essays will also be assessed on a variety of dimensions. You will also take part in some short pre- and post-essay tasks. The data from these tasks will be retained for analysis.

Contact details throughout the duration of the project: Your contact details (name, email address) will be stored throughout the duration of the study so that the researcher can remain in contact with you whilst the study is ongoing. These will be stored separately from your study data. They will be stored in a secure, password protected and encrypted file that only the researcher can access. You may opt in to the researcher keeping your contact details after the study has finished so that they can make you aware of any future studies you may be interested in getting involved in.

Will my participation be confidential?

Your participation and the information we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential.

Only members of the research team and responsible members of the University of Southampton may be given access to data about you for monitoring purposes and/or to carry out an audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations. Individuals from regulatory authorities (people who check that we are carrying out the study correctly) may require access to your data. All of these people have a duty to keep your information, as a research participant, strictly confidential.

All information obtained from you electronically will be saved in password protected, encrypted files on secure University of Southampton servers that only the research team can access.

Only I, the researcher, will have primary access to your data. However, as this is a student project, my research supervisory team may also wish to see the data to check that it is being recorded and analysed correctly. Any data that my supervisors see will be anonymised, so they will not be able to trace it back to you. Two independent assessors will evaluate printout versions of your essays. These will of course be anonymised and any incidental identifying features within the essays will be removed before printing.

After a study has been written up, it is university policy to make data available to other researchers for further future analysis. Therefore, on completion of my PhD, I will upload your anonymous data to the Southampton data repository where it will be stored for a minimum of 10 years. Because this data is anonymous, your participation in the study will remain strictly confidential between you and the researcher. However, to avoid accidentally revealing your identity to other researchers analysing the data, it is important that you do not put any personally identifying information in the data collected throughout this study.

Do I have to take part?

No, it is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide you want to take part, you will need to electronically sign one consent form which you will receive by email to show you have agreed to take part.

If you would like to take part in the project, please email me (Sophie Hall) via the email address at the bottom of the document and we can arrange suitable times for you to take part in each session.

What happens if I change my mind?

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without your participant rights being affected.

You can withdraw by emailing my email address at the bottom of the document, simply stating that you would no longer like to participate in the study. Please note, however, that it will be impossible to withdraw your data beyond one week after your second study session as your data from both sessions would

have been linked and anonymised by that time. If, however, you decide to withdraw during a study session, or within the week after your final session, the data I have collected from you up until that point will be destroyed.

What will happen to the results of the research?

Your personal details will remain strictly confidential (unless you have opted to share them with trusted university researchers so that you can be contacted about future dyslexia/writing studies. However, in this case they will be shared with university researchers ONLY).

Research findings made available in any reports or publications will not include information that can directly identify you.

The results will be written up as part of my PhD thesis. The results may also be published in the future. If you would like to receive a copy of the results, please email me (Sophie Hall) using the email address at the bottom of the document. Please remember that your personal results will not be made directly identifiable in any reports/publications of the results as all data will be anonymised.

It is university policy to upload data collected from PhD studies to the University of Southampton secure data repository. This is so the data can be scrutinised and analysed by other researchers. Thus, the anonymous data collected from you in this study will be uploaded to the data repository. The anonymous data will also be stored by the research team in password protected, encrypted files on the University of Southampton secure server and will be accessed by the research team, or passed onto other dyslexia/writing researchers by the original research team.

Again, all of this data will be anonymised so you will not be able to withdraw this permission beyond one week after your second study session as your data will be impossible to trace it back to you. It will only be used by academic researchers for research studies and not for commercial use.

Where can I get more information?

If you have any questions regarding this information sheet, please email me (Sophie Hall) via the email address at the bottom of this document.

What happens if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researcher who will do their best to answer your questions.

If you remain unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, please contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk).

Researcher contact details

Student researcher: Sophie Hall S.M.Hall@soton.ac.uk

Research team: David Galbraith D.W.Galbraith@soton.ac.uk
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Data Protection Privacy Notice

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of research integrity. As a publicly-funded organisation, the University has to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information about people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use information about you in the ways needed, and for the purposes specified, to conduct and complete the research project. Under data protection law, 'Personal data' means any information that relates to and is capable of identifying a living individual. The University's data protection policy governing the use of personal data by the University can be found on its website (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>).

This Participant Information Sheet tells you what data will be collected for this project and whether this includes any personal data. Please ask the research team if you have any questions or are unclear what data is being collected about you.

Our privacy notice for research participants provides more information on how the University of Southampton collects and uses your personal data when you take part in one of our research projects and can be found at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/sharepoint/intranet/Is/Public/Research%20and%20Integrity%20Privacy%20Notice/Privacy%20Notice%20for%20Research%20Participants.pdf>

Any personal data we collect in this study will be used only for the purposes of carrying out our research and will be handled according to the University's policies in line with data protection law. If any personal data is used from which you can be identified directly, it will not be disclosed to anyone else without your consent unless the University of Southampton is required by law to disclose it.

Data protection law requires us to have a valid legal reason ('lawful basis') to process and use your Personal data. The lawful basis for processing personal information in this research study is for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. Personal data collected for research will not be used for any other purpose.

For the purposes of data protection law, the University of Southampton is the 'Data Controller' for this study, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Southampton will keep your anonymised data for 10 years after the study.

To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personal data necessary to achieve our research study objectives. Your data protection rights – such as to access, change, or transfer such information - may be limited, however, in order for the research output to be reliable and accurate. The University will not do anything with your personal data that you would not reasonably expect.

If you have any questions about how your personal data is used, or wish to exercise any of your rights, please consult the University's data protection webpage (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>) where you can make a request using our online form. If you need further assistance, please contact the University's Data Protection Officer (data.protection@soton.ac.uk).

Thank you.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this information sheet and considering taking part in this project.