

Hi there,

We are two undergraduate students carrying out a project on attentional capacities in people who do and do not stutter, and we would like to invite you to participate in our study.

Background

The 'overload' hypothesis (Arends, Povel & Kolk, 1988) states that stuttering arises when the process of speaking is insufficiently automatic, triggering the need for more attentional control. As attentional resources are limited, demand can outstrip supply and speech control can suffer. This may be because the phonological and articulatory systems of people who stutter are protected less efficiently from interference by alternative attention-demanding tasks (Bosshardt, 2002).

Recent research demonstrated that people who stutter may perform less well in tests that require divided attentional resources (Doneva, Davis & Cavenagh, 2017). It is suggested that PWS may utilise attentional resources differently, for example, more on speech and emotional control, leaving less for other visual or auditory attention tasks.

Thus, our study aims to find out if this is true, so that we may develop a better understanding of the attentional mechanisms behind stuttering, and better help those who stutter.

Experiment Overview

Your audiometric thresholds will be measured, and then you will be asked to complete two computer-based auditory attention tasks.

Task 1: You will be asked to pay attention to an auditory scene and listen out for details within the conversations in the scene

Task 2: You will be doing two auditory tasks simultaneously, an auditory search task where you will be required to identify which of two sounds were present in an audio; as well as an auditory detection task, where you will be required to detect if a target sound was present or absent.

After, we will do a simple IQ test and a couple of questionnaires.

Duration and Location

The study should take around **1.5 hours**, and will be located at **26 Bedford Way, Bloomsbury, London WC1H 0AP**.

Travel Reimbursement

We will also reimburse you for your travel expenses to our lab. However, you would need to provide a receipt of your travel expense as evidence.

Confidentiality

All information which is collected during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential, in accordance to the Data Protection Act 1998. Names will not be mentioned in any of the reports that are written up about the project.

Eligibility Criteria

Participants should fulfil the following eligibility criteria to take part:

- Between 18-35 years
- Normal hearing ability
- English as native language

If you are eligible and are interested in taking part, please sign up at this link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/oS0zbJsOh8Vv1F9J3>. We will then contact you by e-mail to confirm your appointment.

If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail us at jallene.en.15@ucl.ac.uk or

a.jones.15@ucl.ac.uk. We are incredibly grateful to anyone who would be willing to take part!

Thank you very much.