Manchester Language Study

Dear [participant]

How are you? Everything is going really well here in Manchester. In fact we are excited to tell you that we are about to start another phase of the study. We would really like to know how life is going for you as an adult. How is your general health in terms of things like exercise, diet or smoking for example? Are you in a relationship or do you have children yet? Have you passed your driving test? Do you vote? How much TV do you watch? These are questions (along with lots of others!) that we would really like to know the answers to.

We have included some forms along with this letter to tell you more about the study. There is a (insert colour) Participant Information Sheet to read. There is also a (insert colour) Consent Form.

**If you decide you would like to take part again,**

**please fill in the Consent Form and post it to us in the enclosed envelope.**

As usual, if you have any questions about the study you can phone us and have a chat about it (researcher name and number). Or you can email (researcher name) if you like at (researcher email address). You can also get in touch via our website manchesterlanguagestudy.co.uk by clicking on the link to send us an update.

Looking forward to catching up with you. We hope to hear from you soon.

Best wishes,

(Researcher name) and everyone on the Manchester Language Study team

**Manchester Language Study: Outcomes in adult life**

**Participant Information Sheet**

**Who will conduct the research?**

(Name of researchers)

Manchester Language Study team

HCD

School of Psychological Sciences

Ellen Wilkinson Building

University of Manchester

Oxford Road

Manchester, M13 9PL

**What is the aim of the research?**

We are looking at how well adults with and without a history of language difficulties are doing in terms of three main areas of their lives: personal, social and societal.

1] The personal area of life includes general health (weight, exercise, leisure, smoking), mental health (anxiety, depression) and educational/training qualifications (diplomas, apprenticeships, degrees).

2] The social area of life includes personal relationships (marital status, children, friendships, stable partnerships, parents, siblings) and social adjustment (independence, aggression).

3] The societal engagement area of life includes employment (including occupational adjustment), independence (living context, transport, driving), finances (banking, debt) civic participation (voting, volunteering), TV viewing and new media use (computers, mobile phones).

**Why have I been chosen?**

You have been chosen as you have already helped us in the past by taking part in the Manchester Language Study.

**What will I be asked to do if I take part?**

If you take part, you will be visited by someone from our research team at home two or three times, during either the morning, afternoon or evening (whenever suits you best). The researcher will do some language, reading and visual assessments with you and carry out some interviews.

When the researcher visits you, we will ask you to nominate someone (e.g. parent or close friend or partner) to fill in a questionnaire or talk to us about you from their perspective. If you give your consent, we will also access data held by the police about you. We will ask you about this separately when we visit. **You do not have to give your consent for this** and you can still participate in the study.

**What happens to the data collected?**

We will take the information you give us and link it up with information we already have about you from when you were younger. We will then use it to look at different areas of your life and see whether we can see any patterns. We will write papers which will be published in journals and also go to conferences to talk about the findings.

The data we collect may also be used by other researchers to investigate specific aspects of communication development and difficulties. An anonymous database containing information collected in this study is likely, in due course, to be deposited within the data archive of the Economic and Social Research Council, who funded this phase of the study. This database will not contain any identifying details and will ensure full data protection.

**Will anything I say be audiotaped?**

Only one small part when we ask you to tell us your story (how you remember your childhood/adolescence). This is to help us look back on what you said (and avoid having to write too fast).

**Will my data be confidential?**

As you know, we already have some information about you from when you were younger. We will use a unique identity number to match up this information but your name will not be included on the database. We will not publish the data without protecting your identity. The data will be held in a locked filing cabinet within a locked office and databases will be encrypted for security.

**What happens if I do not want to take part or I change my mind?**

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without detriment to yourself.

**Will I be paid for participating in the research?**

You will receive £50 per session in Love to Shop high street vouchers if you take part. If you agree to nominate someone to complete a questionnaire or talk to us about you, they will receive £50 in Love to Shop high street vouchers.

**What is the duration of the research?**

Two or three sessions (either during the morning, afternoon or evening). Each session is expected to take around three to four hours.

**Where will the research be conducted?**

At your home, your parents’ home or anywhere where you feel comfortable and interviews can be carried out, whichever you prefer.

**Will the outcomes of the research be published?**

The findings of the study will be published in peer reviewed journals and also be presented at conferences both in the UK and abroad.

**Criminal Records Check**

All researchers on the team have undergone a satisfactory criminal records check.

**Contact for further information**

(Researcher Name)

HCD

School of Psychological Sciences

Ellen Wilkinson Building

University of Manchester

Oxford Road

Manchester

M13 9PL

Phone number: (Researcher phone number)

Email address: (Researcher email address)

**What if something goes wrong?**

Please contact Gina Conti-Ramsden (Head of Study)

HCD

School of Psychological Sciences

Ellen Wilkinson Building

University of Manchester

Oxford Road

Manchester

M13 9PL

Telephone: 0161 275 3514 / 0161 275 3366 (Secretary)

Email address: gina.conti-ramsden@manchester.ac.uk

If a participant wants to make a formal complaint about the conduct of the research they should contact the Head of the Research Office, Christie Building, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL.

**Manchester Language Study: Outcomes in adult life**

**PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM**

**If you are happy to participate please initial the boxes and sign the consent form:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Please****initial** **box** |
| 1. **I confirm that I have read the attached information sheet and have had the opportunity to consider the information and ask questions and had these answered satisfactorily.**
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| 1. **I understand that my participation in the study is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without detriment.**
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| 1. **I agree to a part of the interview being audiotaped.**
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| 1. **I agree to the use of anonymous quotes.**
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| 1. **I agree that any data collected may be passed to other researchers.**
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| 1. **I agree that I may be contacted directly in the future about other research projects.**
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**I agree to take part in the above project**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Name of participant** |  | **Date** |  | **Signature** |