

Information sheet and consent

Online Dating Survey

If you are 18 years or over and have ever used an online dating site you are invited to participate in a research project conducted by Professor Monica Whitty at The University of Leicester and Dr. Tom Buchanan at The University of Westminster. The study is funded by an ESRC grant. If you decide to take part in this study, you will be asked a series of questions about yourself as well as your use or previous use of online dating sites.

Participation is voluntary. Your identity will remain anonymous. Any information or personal details gathered in the course of the study are confidential. No individual will be identified in any publication of the results, nor will you be identified from the questionnaires. Your responses will be completely anonymous.

The survey should take about 20 minutes. You can leave the survey at any time. Submission of the survey is considered consent to participate in the study.

This study has been approved by the Ethics Committee in the College of Social Sciences at The University of Leicester

Appreciation of your time:

Participants who complete the survey will be offered an opportunity to be entered into a prize for a £250 Amazon voucher.

Summary of findings:

We expect to complete the study by December 2011. We will make a summary of results available on the Media and Communication Department's website at The University of Leicester.

Contact Details:

If you have any questions about this research you should email Prof. Monica Whitty on mw229 at le dot ac dot uk.

Consent:

To take part in this research you must first give consent. You must be 18 years or older. Participation is voluntary and you may withdraw from the study at any point up until completion of the survey (where you will be requested a second time to give consent). Any information or personal details gathered in the study will be strictly confidential. No individual will be identified in any publication of these results.

If you have read the information above, and give your consent to participate under these conditions, please tick "I wish to take part in the study" and then click the 'Continue' button.

- ☐ I wish to take part in the study
- ☐ I do not wish to take part in the study

Demographics etc

Questions About You

Country of Residence

What year were you born?

Are you male or female?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

What is your sexual orientation?

- ☐ Heterosexual
- ☐ Homosexual (gay / lesbian)
- ☐ Bisexual

Most recent relationship status

- ☐ Single
- ☐ Girlfriend/boyfriend
- ☐ Married/civil partnership
- ☐ Married/civil partnership, but not co-habiting
- ☐ Co-habiting
- ☐ Separated
- ☐ Divorced
- ☐ Widowed

Longest amount of time spent in a committed romantic relationship

- ☐ Less than a year
- ☐ 1-2 years
- ☐ 2-3 years
- ☐ 3-4 years
- ☐ 4-5 years
- ☐ 5-6 years
- ☐ 6-7 years
- ☐ over 7 years

Highest level of education completed (Note: completed is not what you are currently enrolled in)

- ☐ Primary School
- ☐ High School
- ☐ GCSE (High School diploma)
- ☐ A levels (High School graduate)
- ☐ Diploma (Associate degree)
- ☐ Degree (Bachelor's degree)
- ☐ Masters
- ☐ PhD

What is your current occupation (if you have more than one, please give your main job)?

Employment: Are you currently...

- ☐ Full-time Student (not working)
- ☐ Full-time student (working part-time)
- ☐ Part-time student (not working)
- ☐ Part-time student (employed)
- ☐ Employed full-time
- ☐ Part-time
- ☐ Unemployed
- ☐ Retired

Current income (UK pounds sterling or US dollars)

- ☐ £0-£10,000/\$0-15,820 (USD)
- ☐ £10,001-£20,000/\$15,821-\$31,640 (USD)
- ☐ £20,001-£30,000/\$31,641-\$47,460 (USD)
- ☐ £30,001-£40,000/\$47,461-\$63,280 (USD)
- ☐ £40,001-£50,000/\$63,281-\$79,100 (USD)
- ☐ £50,001-£60,000/\$79,101-\$94,910 (USD)

- ☐ £60,001-£70,000/\$94,911-\$110,730 (USD)
- ☐ £70,001-£80,000/\$110,731-\$126,550(USD)
- ☐ £80,001-£90,000/\$126,551-\$142,200 (USD)
- ☐ £90,001-£100,000/\$142,201-\$158,000 (USD)
- ☐ Over £100,000 / over \$158,000 (USD)

Could you please indicate where you heard about this survey:

- ☐ An online dating company emailed me
- ☐ Forwarded onto me via a friend
- ☐ Was contacted via a online group (e.g., yahoo group)

Internet Use

Internet Use Questions

The following questions relate to your use of the Internet. Please use the scale next to each item to indicate how confident you feel about your ability to do each of these things. The more confident you feel about each of these things, the higher your rating should be.

I feel confident...

	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Agree
understanding terms/words relating to Internet hardware	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
understanding terms/words relating to Internet software	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
describing functions of Internet hardware	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
trouble shooting Internet problems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
explaining why a task will not run on the Internet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
using the Internet to gather data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
confident learning advanced skills within a specific Internet program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
turning to an on-line discussion group when help is needed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How many hours do you typically use the Internet each week?

Block 3

Dating Questions

Have you ever used an online dating site? (e.g., match.com, parship, eharmony etc.)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

How long ago did you first use an online dating site?

- ☐ less than 6 months ago
- ☐ 6-11 months ago

- ☐ More than two years ago

Are you currently looking for:

- ☐ Not looking

Are you currently using an online dating site?

- ☐
- No

How would you rate online dating as an option in the future to find a romantic partner ?

Do not want to use in the future

Might consider using in the future

Would not consider using in the future

Romance Scam Questions

Romance Scam

The 'romance scam' involves organised criminals who target singles columns and dating websites, creating fake profiles and trying to establish trust with that person. They then pretend to be in urgent need of money and ask for help. Many victims have been persuaded to part with large sums before their suspicions are aroused.

When using an online dating site, have you ever come across a profile on that site that you believed was created by a scammer?

- ☐
- Unsure

Do you believe you have ever been in communication with an online romance scammer? (please select all options that apply).

- ☐
- They sent me gifts

Do you think you were ever taken in by someone who you later thought was a romance scammer?

- ☐ Other people have said I was being scammed but I disagree

If yes, at what point did you realise you were scammed?

- During/after text communications off the site

- ☐ During/after text communications on the site
- ☐ During/after voice communications off the site
- ☐ During/after webcam communications off the site
- ☐ During/after postal mail
- ☐ After you paid them money
- ☐ After the online dating site informed you
- ☐ After the authorities informed you
- ☐ Other

Were you ever suspicious of their photograph?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Were you ever suspicious of the way they communicated?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Was anyone else involved besides the actual scammer (e.g., intermediary person)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you were ever suspicious did you report your suspicion to anyone? (please select all options that apply).

- ☐ No-one, I was not suspicious
- ☐ No-one, even though I was suspicious
- ☐ A friend
- ☐ A family member
- ☐ A colleague
- ☐ The online dating site
- ☐ Authorities

If you lost money to the scammer, how much money did you lose?

Did you find yourself in trouble with the law (e.g. accused of money laundering)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

To what extent were you emotionally affected by the experience of being scammed?

							Very distressed over a long period
Emotionally affected...							

scales

The following statements describe how people sometimes feel. For each statement, please indicate how often you feel the way described by selecting an option from the scale next to the statement. Here is an example:

How often do you feel happy?

If you never felt happy, you would select "never". If you always felt happy, you would select "always".

if you never feel happy, you would respond never ; if you always feel happy, you would respond always .

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Always
1. How often do you feel that you are "in tune" with the people around you?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. How often do you feel that you lack companionship?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. How often do you feel that there is no one you can turn to?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. How often do you feel alone?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. How often do you feel part of a group of friends?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. How often do you feel that you have a lot in common with the people around you?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. How often do you feel that you are no longer close to anyone?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Always
8. How often do you feel that your interests and ideas are not shared by those around you?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. How often do you feel outgoing and friendly?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. How often do you feel close to people?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11. How often do you feel left out?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12. How often do you feel that your relationships with others are not meaningful?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13. How often do you feel that no one really knows you well?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14. How often do you feel isolated from others?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Always
15. How often do you feel you can find companionship when you want it?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16. How often do you feel that there are people who really understand you?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17. How often do you feel shy?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
18. How often do you feel that people are around you but not with you?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
19. How often do you feel that there are people you can talk to?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
20. How often do you feel that there are people you can turn to?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Printed on this page, there are phrases describing people's behaviors. Please use the rating scale below to describe how accurately each statement describes you. Describe yourself as you generally are now, not as you wish to be in the future. Describe yourself as you honestly see yourself, in relation to other people you know of the same sex as you are, and roughly your same age. So that you can describe yourself in an honest manner, your responses will be kept in absolute confidence. Please read each statement carefully, and then fill in the bubble that corresponds to your reply.

	Very Inaccurate	Moderately Inaccurate	Neither Inaccurate nor Accurate	Moderately Accurate	Very Accurate
1. Tend to vote for	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

conservative political candidates.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Have frequent mood swings.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Am not easily bothered by things.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Believe in the importance of art.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Am the life of the party.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Am skilled in handling social situations.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Am always prepared.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Very Inaccurate	Moderately Inaccurate	Neither Inaccurate nor Accurate	Moderately Accurate	Very Accurate
8. Make plans and stick to them.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. Dislike myself.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. Respect others.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11. Insult people.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12. Seldom feel blue.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13. Don't like to draw attention to myself.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14. Carry out my plans.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Very Inaccurate	Moderately Inaccurate	Neither Inaccurate nor Accurate	Moderately Accurate	Very Accurate
15. Am not interested in abstract ideas.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16. Make friends easily.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17. Tend to vote for liberal political candidates.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
18. Know how to captivate people.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
19. Believe that others have good intentions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
20. Do just enough work to get by.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
21. Find it difficult to get down to work.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Very Inaccurate	Moderately Inaccurate	Neither Inaccurate nor Accurate	Moderately Accurate	Very Accurate
22. Panic easily.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
23. Avoid philosophical discussions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
24. Accept people as they are.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
25. Do not enjoy going to art museums.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
26. Pay attention to details.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27. Keep in the background.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
28. Feel comfortable with myself.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Very Inaccurate	Moderately Inaccurate	Neither Inaccurate nor Accurate	Moderately Accurate	Very Accurate
29. Waste my time.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
30. Get back at others.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
31. Get chores done right away.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
32. Don't talk a lot.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
33. Am often down in the					

I predict that in my relationship, romantic love will really last; it won't fade with time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The person I love will make a perfect romantic partner, for example he or she will be completely loving, understanding and accepting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I believe that if another person and I love each other, we can overcome any problems and differences that may arise.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please read the statements below. For each one, please indicate the extent to which you agree with it by selecting an option from the scale.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. I would like to explore strange places.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. I get restless when I spend too much time at home.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. I like to do frightening things.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. I like wild parties.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. I would like to take off on a trip with no pre-planned routes or timetables.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. I prefer friends who are excitingly unpredictable.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. I would like to try bungee jumping.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. I would love to have new and exciting experiences, even if they are illegal.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Block 6

Final Questions

We want to follow up some respondents to find out more details about their experiences. If you have been a victim of a romance scam, would you be willing to be interviewed about your experience?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you are willing for us to contact you to find out more about your experiences, please enter an email address or other contact details in the box below.

As a way of saying thanks to our participants, we would like to offer you the opportunity to be included in a draw for an Amazon voucher worth £250 (UK Pounds). If you would like to be included in the draw, please type an email address or some other contact information in the box below. We will only use this to contact you if you are the winner, your contact details will not be used for any other purpose or shared with anybody else.

Finally, can your answers be logged and used for our research?

You should answer NO if, for example, you have done this survey before, did not answer the questions seriously, or do not want to participate in our research.

- ☐ Yes

