

**LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES  
UNIVERSITY**

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**



**Title of Project:** The relationship between memory and alcohol use.      **IRAS Project ID:** 274928

**Name of Researchers and School/Faculty:** Anna Powell and Dr Catharine Montgomery, School of Psychology.

You are invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it involves. Please take time to read the following information. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear, or if you would like more information. Take your time to decide whether you want to take part or not, allowing yourself a minimum of 24 hours to consider this information.

**1. What is the purpose of the study?**

This study aims to investigate memory and brain function in healthy control participants, which will be compared to that of individuals undergoing treatment for alcohol dependence. A non-invasive technique called Brain Gauge will be used to assess brain function, and this will be compared with people undergoing treatment, to help us identify mental processes associated with alcohol dependence, and recovery/relapse. The aim is to discover if these factors (and the Brain Gauge itself) can be used to predict recovery/relapse in people who are alcohol dependent. The project is being undertaken as part of a PhD in Psychology and Neuroscience, and the data generated from the study will form the basis of a PhD thesis.

**2. Why have I been invited to participate?**

You have been invited to take part as you may fit our inclusion criteria, which are that all participants should:

- Be aged 18+
- Have no current or previous diagnosis of alcohol dependence
- Speak English as first language
- Not have any current diagnosis of another substance use disorder
- Not have used cocaine in the last month
- Not be pregnant
- Not have any learning disabilities
- Not have a condition that affects feeling in their dominant hand
- Not have a neurological impairment
- Not have recently received bad news
- Not be severely malnourished
- Not have liver or kidney disease
- Not have respiratory problems
- Not be experiencing homelessness (with the exception of those staying in hostels)

**3. Do I have to take part?**

No, participation is voluntary. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do, you will be asked to sign a consent form. You are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason, and with no penalty.

#### 4. What will happen to me if I take part?

You will meet once with the principle investigator (Anna Powell) at LJMU premises, or a more accessible public space such as a library (this can be agreed via email).

On your visit you will be asked to complete a series of short (1-3 minutes) computer-based tasks. These tasks will involve holding a small device similar to a computer mouse that vibrates (the Brain Gauge), and being asked questions about these vibrations. For example, you may be asked to choose which vibration on your finger is stronger, or which one lasts for longer. Your response to these questions will tell the researchers about mental processes related to the tasks. You will then be asked to complete questionnaires about your use of alcohol, your mental health and mood, and one about specific mental processes (e.g. memory). Finally, you will be asked some questions about your experience as part of the study. Participation will take around 55 minutes per session and you will be given a £10 shopping voucher at the end of the study. This information is summarised in a table below.

Table of Activities for research participants

Specific	Duration (Minutes)	Number of occasions
Receive information about study	10	1
If desired, contact research team for more information/to arrange participation.	10	1
Give written consent to take part.	5	1
Complete Brain Gauge tests.	20	1
Complete Questionnaires on alcohol use, cognitive function, and mood.	25	1
Complete short questions on what you thought about your experience of participating.	5	1
Debrief	5	1

#### 5. Are there any risks / benefits involved?

There are no intended personal benefits, however the study aims to improve future treatment for alcohol dependence, so it will help our understanding of the recovery of mental processes during treatment. In addition, there are no anticipated risks. You may leave out any questions that you do not wish to answer, and if you feel uncomfortable with the testing procedure at any time then please inform the experimenter. Due to the recent Coronavirus outbreak, we will be ensuring that the testing room and equipment is sanitised before and after each use, and that you and the researcher both use hand sanitiser prior to the start of each testing session, to keep the risk to a minimum.

#### 6. Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

Yes. Any information you give us will be kept strictly confidential and you will not be identifiable from any data that you give, nor will this information be shared with anyone outside of the research team. The university team who are collecting data for the research project will not have access to any of your personal information until you decide to take part in the study. If you decide to take part, you will be asked to sign a consent form. This will be the only identifiable information kept (your name), and will be stored separately from any other data generated in the study in a locked cabinet on university

premises.

To organise your participation, it is likely that you will contact the research team via email. Your email address will not be linked to your name or personal identifiable information. After you have participated, your email address will be deleted from our records, unless you indicate that you would like a copy of the research summary report. If you do, your email address will be stored electronically next to your participant code in an encrypted password-protected file, on a password protected computer, on university premises. The email address will not be linked to your name or personal identifiable information. After we have emailed you the summary, your email address will be deleted from the file. Any anonymised data will be stored for 5 years post study completion, inside Liverpool John Moores University premises, in line with the university's research governance requirements. Electronic data will be anonymised, and will be stored on a password protected computer on university premises. No Brain Gauge data will be sent to the parent company in the United States, this data will only be accessed by the research team, and will be stored in a password protected file on university premises. Hard copies of completed questionnaires will be stored separately to the electronic data in locked filing cabinets, in locked university premises. No identifying data will be published after completion of the study.

The only exception to confidentiality is if you disclose a significant risk of harm to yourself or another. If such a risk was revealed, the researcher may need to report this to the appropriate authorities.

#### **7. What do I do if I want to take part?**

If you would like more information about the study or you would like to take part, please contact the researchers using the email address or phone number below.

#### **8. Who do I speak to if I have concerns?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please contact the research team who will do their best to answer your query. The researcher should acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how they intend to deal with it. If you wish to make a complaint, please contact the chair of the Liverpool John Moores University Research Ethics Committee ([researchethics@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:researchethics@ljmu.ac.uk)) and your communication will be re-directed to an independent person as appropriate.

#### **9. How will I find out the results of the study?**

We cannot give out individual results, but after the study session you will be asked if you wish to have a copy of the study summary emailed to you. If you decline, your email (which will have been used to organise the study) will be deleted. If you accept, your email will be stored in a password protected file on the LJMU M:drive, and will be deleted once the study has ended and the summary has been sent to you.

#### **10. Who is funding the study, and how is it insured?**

The study is funded by the LJMU Vice Chancellor's PhD studentship. Insurance and/or indemnity is provided by Liverpool John Moores University and all its subsidiary companies. Certificate number: UM016/93.

#### **11. Data Protection Notice**

Liverpool John Moores University is the sponsor for this study based in the United Kingdom. We will be using information from you in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. Liverpool John Moores University will process your personal data for the purpose of research. Research is a task that we perform in the public interest. Liverpool John Moores University will keep identifiable information about you for 5 years after the study has finished.

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the study to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible.

You can find out more about how we use your information by contacting [secretariat@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:secretariat@ljmu.ac.uk).

If you are concerned about how your personal data is being processed, please contact LJMU in the first instance at [secretariat@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:secretariat@ljmu.ac.uk). If you remain unsatisfied, you may wish to contact the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Contact details, and details of data subject rights, are available on the ICO website at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-reform/overview-of-the-gdpr/individuals-rights/>

### **Contact Details of Researchers**

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