



MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

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PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET for participants

Project title:

The effect of masking on attitudes to sound

Research team:

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Dr David Welch (Supervisor)

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Dr Kim Dirks (Co-Supervisor)

School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Auckland

Dr Daniel Shepherd (Co-Supervisor)

Faculty of Health and Environmental Studies, Auckland University of Technology

What does the study involve?

What is the purpose of the study?

- This study counts toward a PhD project.
- Our study will try to answer the question 'Does masking influence how people think about sound?'. The research findings will help to better understand how people

react to sounds, and then benefit approaches to help people who have difficulties with this.

What will I be asked to do if I participate?

- We are aiming to recruit 24 participants.
- The participants will need to come to the University of Auckland, Grafton Campus, Hearing Laboratory to take part in the research in person. This is a one-off study.
- The expected duration of participation is one hour.
- During the study, you will be asked to add together numbers, and a soundtrack may be played at the same time.
- Your heart rate and skin conductance will be monitored during the experiment via a clip on your fingertip to assess your bodily response to the sound.
- You will be asked to complete a questionnaire.

Who can take part in the study?

- English speakers, aged 16 years and above, who do not have known hearing loss or troubling tinnitus;
- Not a person with a formal education about theories of sound or hearing.

What will my participation in the study involve?

- You will do a task that involves you adding numbers together in your head. Sometimes, there will be other sounds played too.
- We will investigate how you feel about the sound while you are doing the addition task.
- Your heart rate and skin conductance will be monitored during the experiment.
- You will answer questions about your perception of the sounds.

Benefits and risks:

What are the possible benefits of this study?

- Participating in the study will hopefully be an interesting experience for you, and will enable you to join in research on population health. Your data will be valued by the researchers and will contribute to the advancement of science.

What are the potential risks of this study?

- There is no potential risk for the participants in this research.

Who pays for the study?

- This study counts toward a PhD thesis and is without any external funding.
- Participants will not incur costs.
- Participants will receive one \$50 gift card/voucher at the end of the experiment as our gratitude.

Rights of the participant(s):

Participation is voluntary:

- Your participation is voluntary. You are free to decline to participate, or to withdraw from the research at any practicable time, without experiencing any disadvantage.

Withdrawal from participation and withdrawal of data:

- During the experiment, you may stop at any time, by informing the researcher.
- You may withdraw from the study at any point, and you may also withdraw the data collected about you at any point up to the end of the experimental session, after which your data will be de-identified and combined with the data from other participants so it will not be possible to remove it since nobody will know whose it is.
- If you decide to withdraw from the study, your data will be deleted at the point of withdrawal.

Confidentiality and anonymity:

- During this study the researchers will record information about you and your study participation. This includes the results of any study assessments.
- To make sure your personal information is kept confidential, information that identifies you will not be included with the data or in any report generated by the researcher.
- Only the researchers may have access to the data.
- The results of the study may be published or presented, but the data will not be in a form that would reasonably be expected to identify you.
- The information will be held on password-protected computers.

What will happen after the study?

- After the study, any identifying information will be removed, and your data will be put together with the data from all the other participants.
- The de-identified electronic research data and your consent form will be stored for six years. This is in case we need to re-analyse the data or check any information in future.
- If you would like to receive a summary of the final research findings, we will send them to you via email.

Contact Details:

- Research team:

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- If you require Māori cultural support, talk to your whānau in the first instance. You may also contact the administrator for He Kamaka Waiora (Māori Health Team) by telephoning 09 486 8324 ext 2324, or contact the Auckland and Waitematā District Health Boards Māori Research Committee or Māori Research Advisor by phoning 09 4868920 ext 3204 to discuss any questions or complaints about the study.
- For concerns of an ethical nature, you can contact the Chair of the Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee at ahrec@auckland.ac.nz or at 373 7599 x 83711, or at Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee, The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142.

Approved by the Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee on 21/02/2025 for three years. Reference number AH28554.