

## **Psychology Participant Pool**

### **For PSYC 100 Students**

September 9, 2017

#### **Preamble**

Research is at the heart of the Department of Psychology's mission. The Psychology Participant Pool is an essential and valuable component of the Department's teaching and research. The advancement of psychology depends on the participation of investigators, research assistants, and human participants. We invite undergraduates like you to become involved in Departmental research in one or more of these roles: by volunteering to be a research participant, working in a research laboratory as a paid or volunteer research assistant, or enrolling in an independent research course. By volunteering, you can make a contribution to fundamental knowledge in psychology and human nature, learn more about Departmental research and how it is conducted, as well as earn extra credits in your courses.

#### **Overview**

If you participate in the Psychology Participant Pool, for every half hour of research completed, you can increase your final mark in PSYC 100 by 0.5% up to a maximum of 5%. For example, if your final mark in a class is a 78%, and you complete 2 hours of research credits, your final mark will be an 80%, and your final grade on your transcript will be an A- instead of a B+. Research credit, however, will not change a failing mark to a passing mark.

#### **How to Sign Up**

Participant pool studies will be listed on the online Participant Pool system, which is called SONA. You will receive an email with the information you need to register your account on SONA after the end of the drop/add period. Expect the email around the middle of the third week of the fall semester. You must have your student number and the password assigned by the Department to sign up for studies. (Note that this password is NOT your Queen's email account password). For more details on registration, go to 2:31 of the SONA instructional video available at [https://youtu.be/\\_1OnT2ZU6QQ](https://youtu.be/_1OnT2ZU6QQ).

As part of your registration on SONA, you can complete four demographic questions. These questions may be used by some researchers to limit access to their studies on SONA only to students who belong to certain groups (e.g., women only). In addition, during the first week of the fall semester, you will be emailed a link to a separate online prescreening questionnaire that contains more than just demographic questions. You will have an opportunity to work on this prescreening questionnaire at your first learning lab. You can complete the SONA prescreening at any time (for more details, go to 8:45 on the video), but the larger prescreening questionnaire will be due by the end of the drop/add period (second Friday of the term). If you complete the larger prescreening questionnaire online, you often become eligible for additional studies, and those researchers will contact you directly to find a time to participate. However, please note that you will never have to sign up for the offered projects; completing the prescreening simply gives you additional opportunities to complete your credits as you prefer.

For more details on how to sign up for studies, go to 3:41 of the instructional video. When you sign up for a study, you will select PSYC 100 as the course toward which your research participation will be credited (for more details, go to 7:07 on the instructional video).

#### **Why participate?**

**IT'S EDUCATIONAL:** The more you experience research first hand, the more you will understand about behavioural studies. The experience will give you greater insight about the process underlying the studies you learn about in your PSYC 100 course. Furthermore, participation will not only help in understanding the topics covered in the introductory psychology course, but it also will provide a broad foundation for understanding research in your upper year courses. Participating in research also is a great way to determine if you would like to be involved in research projects as an upper-year student – just ask the researcher about opportunities in the future to volunteer or do a special directed lab course (PSYC 570/575).

**YOU'LL RECEIVE BONUS CREDIT TO YOUR FINAL MARK(S):** For every half hour of research participation, you can increase your final mark in PSYC 100 by 0.5% up to a maximum of 5%. For example, if your final mark in PSYC 100 is a 75%, and you complete all 5 hours of research credits, your final mark will be an 80%, and your final PSYC 100 grade on your transcript will be an A- instead of a B.

**YOU MAKE RESEARCH POSSIBLE:** Student participation in research also is crucial for the researchers conducting these studies. Without participation, we can't run the studies that help us answer important psychology questions. The goal of the Department of Psychology is not just to educate students but to be a leader in creating knowledge and advancing the field. Many of the studies that you will be reading about in PSYC 100 were conducted with students just like you, and now you will have an opportunity to participate in studies that may find their way into future textbooks in introductory and other psychology courses. You also make it possible for your fellow undergraduate and graduate students to complete their degrees because without the help of students like you, they would not be able to gather the data they need for their theses and dissertations.