

Guidelines for online studies

Since the pandemic, more studies than before are being conducted online. It appears that running online studies make it more challenging to keep the maximum number of inclusions in check and thus, the accompanied (monetary) compensation (e.g. participants who use a link after the study has been completed). This is ethically undesirable and unnecessarily increases research expenses (researchers are obliged to reimburse participants even if these are erroneously included). Therefore, please follow the following guidelines in case of conducting online studies:

- Recruit via SONA whenever possible (or only include participants who are willing to make an account via SONA only), with a prespecified number of timeslots
- If recruiting via SONA is not possible/highly undesirable, make sure to deactivate the study once it is finished via the settings by including a maximum number of participants, and/or end-date in the tool that is used for data acquisition (e.g. Qualtrics). Or make sure to deactivate the study manually if these steps are not possible with the tool that is used.
- Think about building in restrictions that help to minimize fake participants and reduce noncompliance to the instructions (e.g. providing unique codes for participation, consider criteria for performance like minimum level reaction speed, verifications, or attention checks). Do make sure that performance criteria are reasonable (i.e., not too conservative) and mentioned these clearly in the information letter.

Privacy

Please be aware that online studies pose different privacy risks from laboratory-based studies. Therefore, researchers should make use of secure closed systems (e.g. Qualtrics) *at all times*. Also, recruitment via social media platforms for studies with smaller sample sizes or with sensitive topics in the advertised recruitment link should be done via providing contact details of the researcher, who could then provide the study link upon request (rather than providing the link to the study directly on the platform along with the advertisement). These measures could prevent social media from collecting sensitive information about the participant. In general, researchers should be transparent about any privacy risks and inform potential participants sufficiently. In case of doubt, please consult our privacy officer.