

FAQs

Why are we doing this study?

We wish to understand the extent to which the experience of visual imagery varies between individuals, and explore the ways in which the ability to visualise affects a person's experience more generally. Just as a small minority of people report that they have never been able to bring images to the mind's eye, some people describe especially rich and vivid imagery. The existence of these two groups suggests a 'spectrum' of imagery vividness. We want to examine that spectrum in detail and explore what it means for experience and behaviour. The results will help us to understand the meaning of variations in visual imagery, and contribute to medical research around deficits or disorders of the visual imagination.

What does this study involve?

We will ask you to answer questions about your experience of visual imagery in a 10 minute online survey.

Do I need a vivid imagination in order to take part?

No. The researchers are as interested in those who have difficulty visualising as they are in those who have very vivid images. We want to explore and describe variations in the capacity to visualise – there is no minimum 'level of ability' necessary for taking part.

How long can I take for the tasks?

As long as necessary. There is no need for responses to be immediate.

Will this survey be anonymous?

We ask you to complete the survey using only your Exeter 10000 code (as shown on your invitation letter) and initials. This means that researchers analysing your answers will not know your name or contact details, but will be able to contact you with a view to further research if appropriate.

Who is this study funded by?

This study is funded by an Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Science in Culture Innovation Award.

What are the risks and benefits of participating?

There are no risks and you can withdraw from completing the questionnaire at any time. The benefits of participating are to contribute to our understanding of the human imagination and its variation between individuals.

Do I have to participate?

No, this project is additional to the Exeter 10000 project and you are not obliged to participate.

Who has reviewed this study?

The Exeter 10000 research committee, the School of Psychology Ethics Committee, and independent Psychology faculty for Scientific Review.