



Having an fMRI Scan at CUBIC – Information for Participants Under 18

Hello and welcome to CUBIC MRI centre here at Royal Holloway University. You are here because you have kindly agreed to take part in a study about the human brain, and will be having a brain scan as part of that.

Having a brain scan

We will be using a technique called magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to take pictures of your brain while you are lying in an MRI scanner. The scanner will look a lot like the one in this picture.

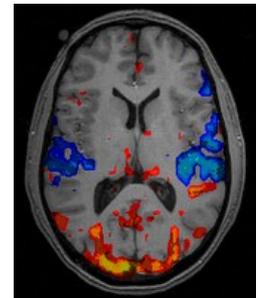


There are two main types of scan we will be using today.

Structural MRI scans allow us to look at what the brain looks like, as you can see in this picture. During a structural scan, you will be asked to lie very still and possibly watch some videos while the scan takes place.



Functional MRI scans allow us to look at which parts of the brain are being used when you're doing or thinking particular things. For example, this picture shows the parts of the brain that are active while watching and listening to a music video. During a functional scan, we will ask you to play simple computer games while in the scanner. You will have the chance to practice this beforehand.



Safety first!

The most important thing to tell you is that these scans are very safe. You will not feel anything while the scan is being taken, and there are no side effects. However, the scanner uses powerful magnets to create the pictures and so it is important that no metal is taken into the scanning room. A researcher will take you through some screening forms to make sure you are metal-free. To be on the safe side we also say that pregnant women and people with certain health conditions should not take part, so you may be asked some health questions as well.

What is it like in the scanner?

As you can see from the picture above, the scanner looks a bit like a washing machine! You lie on the bed and this is then moved into position so that your head is inside the scanner. Most people are happy to lie in the scanner, but if you are *claustrophobic*, meaning you do not like being in small spaces, then you may decide not to be scanned. ***You can of course stop taking part at any time, for any reason, and you do not need to tell us why.***

While you're in the scanner you will talk to the researcher through an intercom system, and they will check on you regularly to make sure all is well. You will also be given a buzzer to press if you need to get their attention quickly.

When the scanner is running it will be **very noisy**, so we will give you some earplugs and headphones which you must wear in order to protect your ears.

Another important thing to mention is that it takes a few minutes to collect each brain scan. If you move during the scan the pictures can be ruined or come out very fuzzy, so it's very important that you **stay as still as possible** while you're in the scanner.

What will happen to my data?

We are interested in learning about how the human brain works and how it develops when you're a child or teenager. Your brain scan will be combined with others and used by the research scientists to answer these questions. Once scientists have found out something interesting, we often share our findings with other people in talks and written reports, and sometimes our findings will be in the news. However, we will keep your individual data safe and will never give out your name or contact details without you and your parents'



agreement. We may share your data with other researchers doing similar projects, and with big databases such as the UK Data Archive, but the information we share will never contain your name or address.

Very rarely we might see something on your brain scan that we think should be checked by a doctor. We have asked your parents to give us your GP's details in case this is necessary. However, it is very unlikely.

Everything you say will be treated as confidential, unless we are worried that there is a risk of harm to you or another young person, in which case we will inform Surrey Children's Services (<http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/contacting-social-care/contact-childrens-services>).

Get a picture of your brain

You may be curious to see what your brain looks like. If you decide to take part in the study, we will send some pictures of your brain. You'll receive this a few days after taking part.

Keeping your contact details for future research

If you are willing for us to do so, we would also like to keep your contact details on file for the next five years in case future opportunities to participate in research occur. Your contact information will be kept confidential. Please tick the relevant box on the consent form if you are happy for us to do this.

[Include contact details of researchers, and ethics info for particular study]