

Information for Participants

Dear Participant,

You are invited to participate in a research study. This information sheet provides you with information about the research. The Principal Investigator (the person in charge of this research) or his representative will also describe this research to you and answer all of your questions. Please read the information below and feel free to ask questions about anything you don't understand before deciding whether to take part or not.

The research is intended to investigate the learning motivation of German language learners at the university level. We are aiming to enrol 150 or more participants in our study. Students of LAG1201 who consent to participating in this study will be asked to fill out two questionnaires, one at the beginning and one at the end of the semester, i.e. in late August/early September and November 2022, respectively. It is estimated that the questionnaires will take approx. 15 to 20 minutes to fill out. The questionnaires will be focusing on the learning motivation of German language learners. All questionnaire forms will be identified only by a reference number.

A small group of participants will be invited to attend an interview to be conducted in February 2023 to collect further information pertaining to their learning motivation. The interviews are expected to last 20-30 minutes each and will be audio-recorded with the consent of the participants.

The questionnaire and interview data will be kept at the NUS and will be dealt with with the utmost confidentiality. You are requested to provide the investigators with some background information about yourself, namely your name, matric number, age, gender, year and faculty of study. In addition, your module grade will be used as a measure of your learning outcome and will be compared with the data collected through the questionnaires. However, we assure you that your identity (name and matric number) will be kept separately from the other data and will be entrusted to the Centre for Language Studies. Your identity will not be released to the investigators until after the module grades have been confirmed and released. Identifiable information will never be used in a publication or presentation.

You will not be reimbursed for your participation. There is no direct benefit to you by participating in this research. However, the results will help us to improve the curricula of the German language modules at the NUS. As a student enrolled in one of the modules, you may thus also benefit indirectly from the study's outcomes. It is not expected that you will experience any discomfort while participating in this research.

Your decision to participate in this research is voluntary and completely up to you. You can refuse to participate in this research. Your decision for or against participation will not affect your grades in your German module in any way. You can also withdraw from the research at any time (even after completing the first or second questionnaire), without giving any reasons, by informing the Principal Investigator and all your data will be discarded.

For an independent opinion regarding the research and the right of research participants, you may contact a staff member of Departmental Research Ethics Committee of the Centre for

Language Studies (Attn: Ms Susanna Lam, at telephone 65165683 or email at susanna@nus.edu.sg).

Thank you!

Dr Svenja Bruenger

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