

## Invitation to Participate in a Research Project

We would like to invite you to take part in a research project. We are doing this research to help us understand how the brain works in young people. We would also like to find out how the brain works in young people with some specific difficulties (such as hyperactivity, attention problems, behaviour problems and obsessive compulsive disorder) and how it relates to their thinking style. We hope this will help doctors and psychologist to better treat these difficulties in the future.

How do we do this?

We use a modern method, called 'magnetic resonance imaging' (MRI). It uses powerful magnets to get an accurate picture of what the brain looks like and how it works. You can see an example of the pictures that we can get with this technique here.



MRI scans are safe and thousands of young people have had one or more scans. The MRI machine, the "scanner", is a large, white machine. You can see a picture of the scanner below. It's main part is a very powerful magnet. We do



not feel the magnet and it does nothing to our bodies, but it would move anything metallic with a great power. This is why the specialist accompanying you to the scanner will ask you about all sorts of metal you may have with you or on your body (such as braces, piercings, surgical staples or just a pen in your pocket).

Attached to the scanner is a narrow moving bed, which will take you inside a sort of a tunnel, up to your elbows, in the middle of the scanner. While inside, you will still be able to see out and to speak with us at any time. The scanner makes a noise when scanning, so you will need headphones to



protect your ears from this. Most people feel comfortable in the scanner, but some people fear narrow spaces and may feel panicky. So please tell us if you feel uncomfortable or anxious in narrow and closed spaces, such as lifts and underground passages. While you are in the scanner, we will ask you to stay as still as possible so that the pictures we take of your brain are not fuzzy. We will ask you to play a few simple computer games. There will also be a short time when you do not need to do anything in particular; we can even play your favourite music in this time if you bring a CD.

You would have to visit us once. The scan will take about 1 hour. We will need to ask you some questions before and after that, so that altogether you will spend about two and a half hours with us. We will pay your travel expenses and will give you some money as compensation for your effort. You will also be able to win some more money on the games you will play in the scanner. If you want, we would love to give you a picture of your brain afterwards.



If you think you would like to participate, or if you would like to know more about what we do, please let us know and we will send more information. You can read this with your parents (they would have to agree too!) and get in touch if you have any questions before you decide whether you would like to take part.

We hope to meet you in person soon!

Thanks for your time.

Dr Anastasia Christakou  
Institute of Psychiatry at the Maudsley

**KING'S** Box P046  
*College* De Crespigny Park  
**LONDON** London, SE5 8AF, UK

☎ +44 (0)20 7848 5253

+44 (0)7941 632 612 (mobile)

☎ +44 (0)20 7848 0866

✉ Anastasia.Christakou@iop.kcl.ac.uk