FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where is the CRABE Lab?

The CRABE Lab is located on SFU’s Burnaby campus in WMC 2653.

What is an economics experiment? What will I be expected to do if I participate in one?

Our economics experiments are primarily conducted in a computer lab in the West Mall Complex, Room 2653. In an experiment, you will make decisions that involve real monetary incentives. There are no right or wrong decisions, but you will earn money based on the decisions you make. How you make decisions and how these decisions result in money for you will be explained at the beginning of each experiment.

There are many researchers at CRABE conducting very different experiments. Some experiments in the past have focused on how people interact in bilateral negotiations or in market settings. Other experiments involve participants casting votes, making forecasts about macroeconomic variables or decisions on how to play in strategic games.

How do I register for an experiment?

First you must register to be a participant to be invited for experiments. When an experiment is scheduled, a randomly selected subset of participants will receive email invitations. In some cases, we can only invite participants who have already participated in previous experiments or have special characteristics. In most cases, you will only be able to participate in one session of an experiment. You may find sessions in the calendar that you have not been initially invited to. We often need to send out more invitations to different participants.

When you receive an email invitation and you wish to register for specific session, click on the link in the email. You will be directed to the CRABE calendar where you can select your preferred session. You should note that sessions fill up quickly. If you wait too long to sign up, your preferred sessions may already be full.

How and how much will I be compensated for my participation in these experiments?

We compensate all subjects in cash immediately after the experiment. If, and only if, you show up on time, you will receive a show up fee of between $5 to $10. The exact amount will be specified in your invitation email. The final compensation ranges from experiment to experiment, but will depend on the decisions that you (and
possibly others) make. The experimenter will clearly explain how your decisions translate into payoffs at the beginning of the sessions when instructions are given.

It is imperative that you show up 5-10 minutes before the start of the experiment. To be properly conducted, many experiments require the full time allotted. If you do not arrive on time, you may be replaced with an alternate student. Repeated late arrivals may involve us removing you from our mailing list. Due to likelihood of no-shows, we recruit more than a sufficient number of participants for each sessions. In some cases, we have more than enough subjects present at the start of a session. We will randomly select some subjects, pay them the show up fee, and invite them back with priority for a later sessions, whenever possible.

**Can anyone register for these experiments?**

Any student at SFU with an SFU ID number and Computing ID may register. You must be able to understand English. We recruit a wide variety of backgrounds and do not expect any knowledge of economics.

**How will the collected data be used, and who will have access to it?**

The experiments conducted at CRABE are part of university research projects, the results of which are published in academic publications and scientific journals.

Your personal information and your decisions within the experiment will always remain confidential. Any information that could be used to personally identify you will be stored in locked files with access limited to the Principal Investigator and his/her authorized research assistants, all of who have signed statements agreeing to keep this information confidential. Moreover, you will never be specifically identified in any dissemination of research results.

**Where can I learn about the results of the study?**

The results of the research in which you participate will always be publicly available through the website of the primary investigator as soon as the research is published and in some cases will be made publicly available in pre-publication form.

**How can I cancel my registration for an experiment?**

Please verify your availability before you register for a session. Many experiments cannot run without all the confirmed participants present. Failure to cancel your registration well in advance may lead to cancellation of an entire session. If you are ill or cannot show up due to an emergency, please reply to your invitation email and request to be removed from the session as soon as possible.

**If I register and cannot attend, can my friend participate?**
No, it is very important that you do not send a substitute in your place. Some experiments require inexperienced participants; your friend may have already participated. Similarly, some experiments involve recruiting participants who have already participated in an earlier experiment. If you cannot attend, please contact us as soon as possible so that we can find an appropriate replacement.

**If I show up for an experiment, am I required to participate?**

No, you are free to refuse to participate at any time and your decision will not expose you to any penalty or loss of benefits to which you might be otherwise entitled but will entail loss of all earnings from the experiment itself because we cannot calculate your earnings unless you complete the whole experiment. If you withdraw, you will keep your participation fee. The decision to refuse participation will not adversely affect your standing in any class in which you are enrolled. You also may be withdrawn from the study at any time by the investigators.

**How can I remove myself from your mailing list?**

If you no longer wish to receive emails from CRABE, please notify us by writing to econexp@sfu.ca

**Can I participate more than once in these experiments?**

You may be eligible to participate in many of our experiments. In general, you will not be invited to participate twice in the same experiment, or for an experiment for which you have not received an invitation.

**Are there risks involved if I decide to participate in an experiment?**

None of the experiments at CRABE presents any physical, psychological, or other risks, and economics experiments never employ deception of any kind. All experiments conducted at CRABE must be pre-approved by the Department of Research Ethics at SFU. This ensures that the rights of human subjects who participate in our experiments are protected. If you have any comments or concerns about the research being conducted in the CRABE Lab, you may direct them to Dr. Jeffrey Toward, Director, Simon Fraser University Office of Research Ethics at jeffrey.toward@sfu.ca or 778-782-6593

**What are the benefits to participating in an experiment?**

Other than the compensation mentioned above, you will receive no other direct benefits to participants in this study. However, one important indirect benefit is your contribution to the growth of knowledge about economic decision making.
What are the risks involved if I do not show up to an experiment I’ve signed up for?

When you miss an experiment, you will receive a warning email reminding you of your absence. After two absences, CRABE reserves the right to remove you from the mailing list.

How long do these experiments last?

Experiments usually last between 45 minutes and 2 hours. The maximum length of the experiment will be communicated to you in the invitation email.

Where is the experimental economics laboratory located?

The lab can be found at

West Mall Complex, Rm. 2653
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, Vancouver
V5A 1S6

Who should I contact if I have more questions?

Please contact the CRABE Lab manager: econexp@sfu.ca