Participant Information Sheet

Project title:	Automatic Speech Recognition practicals 2025-26
Principal investigator:	Peter Bell
Researcher collecting data:	Georgios Karakasidis
Funder (if applicable):	n/a

This study was certified according to the Informatics Research Ethics Process, RT number 2019/85834. Please take time to read the following information carefully. You should keep this page for your records.

Who will be using the data?

The data will be used by all students enrolled on the Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) course in 2025-26, and also the lecturer, Peter Bell; the teaching assistant, Georgios Karakasidis and the demonstrators, Emily Gaughan, and Yen Meng.

What is the purpose of the work?

The purpose of this work is to enable students to study and experiment with the behaviour of real ASR systems on speech data with a very small vocabulary that contains words which could easily be confused with one another.

Why have I been asked to take part?

You have been asked to take part because you are an enrolled student on the course. We think that collecting a small set of recordings from every student is the quickest way of creating a speech database that is large enough to perform meaningful ASR experiments, but with constraints on the data that allow students to carry out the work with algorithms that are simple to implement, and with minimum computational requirements.

Do I have to take part?

No – participation is entirely up to you. You can withdraw at any time, without giving a reason. Your rights will not be affected. If you wish to withdraw, contact Georgios Karakasidis. We will stop all students from using your data after you have withdrawn consent. However, we will keep copies of your original consent, and of your withdrawal request.

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What will happen if I decide to take part?

Using your own phone, tablet or computer you will record approximately five utterances of your own speech, and transcribe the words you spoke. The words will be selected by you from a short passage of English text. We anticipate that this will take less than five minutes in total.

You will have the opportunity to replay each recorded utterance. If you are happy with the recording for that utterance, you will be able to submit it to a secure server where all recordings and transcriptions will be stored. You will also be required to submit your UUN. This will not be shared with other students, but will be used by the lecturer and teaching assistant to identify your recordings in the event that you wish to withdraw them, and to enable you to retrieve your own recordings if desired. Your UUN will not be used for any other purpose.

The full set of recordings will be shared with all enrolled students on the course, on the understanding that no further copies are made. Students will use these recordings to carry out lab and assignment work. Recordings will be deleted at the end of the 2025-26 academic year.

Are there any risks associated with taking part?

There are no significant risks associated with participation.

Are there any benefits associated with taking part?

As a student on the ASR course, you will benefit from being able to experiment with your own ASR system on real speech data.

What will happen to the results of this work?

Results (measured by Word Error Rate) on the recorded data will feature in lab work and coursework in the 2025-26 ASR course. This work will not be made publicly available.

Data protection and confidentiality.

Your recordings will be processed in accordance with Data Protection Law. All information collected about you will be kept strictly confidential. No information

pertaining to the speaker will be included with the data. Your UUN will only be viewed only by the lecturer and teaching assistant, and only for the purposes of removing your recordings or sharing your own recordings with you.

All electronic data will be stored on a password-protected encrypted computer, on the School of Informatics' secure file servers, or on the University's secure encrypted cloud storage services (DataShare, ownCloud, or Sharepoint). There will be no paper records stored. Your consent information will be kept separately from your recordings in order to minimise risk.

What are my data protection rights?

The University of Edinburgh is a Data Controller for the information you provide. You have the right to access information held about you. Your right of access can be exercised in accordance Data Protection Law. You also have other rights including rights of correction, erasure and objection. For more details, including the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office, please visit www.ico.org.uk. Questions, comments and requests about your personal data can also be sent to the University Data Protection Officer at dpo@ed.ac.uk.

Who can I contact?

If you have any further questions about the study, please contact Peter Bell (peter.bell@ed.ac.uk) or Georgios Karakasidis (gkarakas@ed.ac.uk). If you wish to make a complaint about the study, please contact inf-ethics@inf.ed.ac.uk. When you contact us, please provide the project title and detail the nature   of your complaint.

Updated information.

If the research project changes in any way, an updated Participant Information Sheet will be made available on https://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/research/study-updates.

Alternative formats.

To request this document in an alternative format, such as large print or on coloured paper, please use the contact details listed above.

General information.

For general information about how we use your data, go to: edin.ac/privacy-research