



Ollscoil Chathair
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City University

Evaluating the impact of the BOHEMIAN project on engagement with bioaerosol forecast and health mitigating behaviours



Researcher: Dr Emma Delemere & Leyre Alonso Valdivia, School of Psychology

Participant Information Sheet

You are being invited to take part in an intervention conducted by Dr Leyre Alonso Valdivia and Dr Emma Delemere, from the School of Psychology, DCU. The intervention is part of the BOHEMIAN project funded by the National Challenge Fund.

What is this research about?

The BOHEMIAN project aims to expand and refine bioaerosol forecasts, providing a more accurate, localized information of air quality, including concentration of allergen particles. These enhanced forecasts will be used to provide travel information through a smartphone application specifically developed as part of the project. The smartphone application will provide highly localized information about pollution and pollen levels and propose alternative travel routes with lower level of pollutants/allergen particles.

Why is this research being conducted?

Reducing exposure to pollution and allergen particles is a first step to improve health and quality of life, particularly among people with medical conditions affecting the respiratory system, such as asthma.

Why have you been invited to take part?

You have been invited to take part because either you or a person in your care has been diagnosed with asthma or a similar medical condition.

What will happen if you decide to take part in this study?

This research consists of two parts a series of surveys to be completed at the start and during the duration of the intervention, and a smartphone application that provides travel routes alternatives and proposes health mitigating behaviours to reduce pollution/allergens exposure.

If you decide to take part, you will be assigned a participant ID number to enter the intervention and to complete the surveys anonymously. First, you will be presented with a short questionnaire asking about your knowledge and engagement with bioaerosol forecast, impact of air quality on your health and health preservation behaviours you use.

For the second part of this research, you will have access to the smartphone application developed for this project. This smartphone application will provide you with highly localized current and forecasted information about pollution and pollen levels. The application also has a route planning feature that provides alternative (e.g., less polluted) routes for a specific trip. During the duration of the intervention, the application will present you with health mitigating behaviour that you can take in order to reduce your exposure to pollutants/allergens. This information will be presented by either a message within the app, or through banner notifications.

Through the app, you will have access to a short symptom tracker diary developed by the Asthma Society of Ireland, that you will be asked to complete daily. Once a week, the application will prompt you to complete a short questionnaire about the health behaviours you have engaged in during the week as well as to provide feedback about the application itself.

Additionally, basic app-usage data, such as number of times the app has been opened, will also be collected through the app internal statistics.

Participants who complete 70% or more of the weekly questionnaires (e.g., at least once a week for 6 of the 8 weeks) will be given a €50 One4All voucher.

How your data will be used?

All the data you share during the course of this research will be used solely for the purpose of the research itself. No personal, identifiable data will be collected by this team.

The data will only be accessed by the researchers involved in the BOHEMIAN project. The data will be held for a period of two years after the finalization of the project.

You have a right to access your own data and you can do so by contacting the researchers (see below for contact information). You also have a right to lodge a complaint concerning the use of your personal data with the Irish Data Protection Commission.

If you have any further questions about how your data is used or your rights you can contact DCU Data Protection Officer Mr. Martin Ward (data.protection@dcu.ie, Ph.: 7005118 / 7008257) who will handle any data protection concerns arising from the research.

How will your privacy be protected?

Please note that confidentiality of information can only be protected within the limitations of the law - i.e., it is possible for data to be subject to subpoena, freedom of information claim or mandated reporting by some professions.

What are the benefits of taking part in this study?

Aside the €50 One4All voucher there are no other direct benefits for you for taking part in this stage of the project. However, engagement with the smartphone application could lead to improved health and/or reduced symptoms due to reduced exposure to pollutants/allergens.

What are the risks of taking part in this study?

There are no risks involved in taking part of this study.

Can you change your mind at any stage and withdrawn from this study?

You can withdraw from this study at any point. If you wish to withdraw after you have engaged with the smartphone app, you can request any data collected through the or the questionnaire to be deleted by contacting the researchers and providing your participant number.

How will you find out what happens with this project?

The results of this project will be published in scientific journals.

Contact details and further information

If you have any further questions or if you wish to participate, you can contact the researchers via:

Dr. Leyre Alonso Valdivia - leyre.alonsovaldivia@dcu.ie

Dr. Emma Delemere - Emma.delemere@dcu.ie

If you have concerns about this study and wish to contact an independent person, please contact: The Secretary, Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee, c/o Research and Innovation Support, Dublin City University, Dublin 9. Tel 01-7008000, e-mail rec@dcu.ie