

Lab Rules – Experimentallabor

For experimenter

General rules

All researchers using the laboratory agree to abide to the principles widely accepted by experimental economists, such as no-deception of participants (see Friedman and Sunder, 1994). Deviations from these principles jeopardize the credibility of **all** experimental data and as such will not be permitted. These rules are applicable for **all experiments** using the subject pool of the TU Berlin. Note that it is not possible to debrief subjects after the experiment.

All researchers (henceforth experimenters) using the volunteer database and/or the laboratory facilities agree to protect the reputation of the laboratory with respect to its subjects. They also agree to protect the reputation of the laboratory and affiliated institutions with respect to the general public. When there is uncertainty on the part of the researcher regarding this, he/she should discuss the issue with the laboratory management and possibly the ethics committee. WZB employees have the possibility to contact the ethics committee of the WZB.

- This implies, amongst other things, that experiments should start on time and finish on time.
- Advertised experiments for which participants have been invited should not be cancelled nor should the advertised time/venue be changed.
- Experimenters are strongly encouraged to test the software code and other procedures before asking the research assistants (RA's) to announce an experiment and invite subjects. Experimenters should take all possible care (e.g., run pilots) prior to requesting the responsible RA to recruit subjects.

Send a description of the experiment and instructions to the laboratory manager at least 2-3 weeks before the scheduled date and obtain approval from the laboratory manager.

There will be one RA who is responsible for the organizational details and the procedures of the experiment. The experimenter must notify the RA at least 10 days in advance as to how many individuals are required for each booked session. Please use our reservation form for this purpose.

In addition, the experimenter should also provide the RA with a short description of the experiment and the instructions of the experiments. This information is used to keep track of the experiment history of the lab and the participants.

To book the lab the experimenter should assess the exact time which is needed to run an experiment (e.g., by running pilots). The minimum duration of a session has to be 30 minutes. Furthermore the experimenter should schedule 15 minutes between two sessions.

This means that an experiment which is expected to take about 30–45 minutes should be scheduled for 60 minutes.

It is highly recommended to have a break between two sessions (if the buffer between two sessions is big enough no break is needed). This prevents an interaction between participants who have already taken part in an experiment and other participants who are waiting outside for the next session.

Experimenters using our volunteer database have to properly indicate that subjects were recruited using ORSEE. ORSEE is citeware, that is, any academic report, publication, or other academic disclosure of results obtained with the use of this software has to cite the following publication:

Greiner, Ben. 2015. Subject Pool Recruitment Procedures: Organizing Experiments with ORSEE, *Journal of the Economic Science Association*, 1(1): 114–125.

If the experiment is conducted using z-Tree or oTree, the experimenter has to indicate its use in the academic publication and cite the following publication:

Fischbacher, Urs. 2007. z-Tree: Zurich Toolbox for Ready-Made Economic Experiments. *Experimental Economics*, 10(2): 171–178.

Daniel L. Chen, Martin Schonger, Chris Wickens. 2016. oTree – An Open-source Platform for Laboratory, Online, and Field Experiments. *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Finance*, 9: 88–97.

Compensation for experimental subjects (students)

Students should be given a minimum show-up fee of 5 Euro. If they show up, but cannot participate due to capacity constraints, they get 5 Euro.

The experiment should be designed so that students earn **on average** (including the show-up fee)

- 10 Euro for 30 minutes
- 15 Euro for 1 h
- 20 Euro for 1,5 h
- 25 Euro for 2 h.

In addition, it should be ensured that participants receive a **minimum payment** (possibly guaranteed by an additional participation fee) of

- 7 Euro für 1 h or less
- 8 Euro für 1,5 h
- 9 Euro für 2 h.

If the experiment is terminated, 10 Euro should be paid as compensation.

Giving students the possibility to earn a substantial amount is important for reputational concerns and possibly creates spill-over effects, which makes recruiting easier.

Compensation for research assistants

The compensation for an RA is 20 Euro per hour. Additionally, at least 1 hour per experiment day will be charged for the preparation of the experiment. The experimenter should clarify and arrange this in advance with the RA in charge of the experiment.

Instructions

The instructions should provide all necessary and relevant information regarding the tasks and payment of students in a concise and clear way. It is also advisable to include a quiz at the end in order to check the understanding of the participants. Moreover, the instructions **must** include the following paragraph in the beginning.

Welcome to our experiment!

During the experiment you are not allowed to use electronic devices or to communicate with other participants. Please use only the programs and functions intended for the experiment. Please do not talk to the other participants. If you have a question, please raise your hand. We will then come to you and answer your question in silence. Please do not ask your questions out loud. If the question is relevant for all participants, we will repeat it loudly and answer it. If you violate these rules, we must exclude you from the experiment and the payout.

It might be also useful to state who is providing the funding of the research and possibly a short, very general statement about the purpose of the study. A possible example is:

The experiment you are about to participate in is part of a project funded by [*Funding agency*]. It is used to analyze economic decision-making behavior.