

## Information Sheet for

## in Research Studies

**You will be given a copy of this information sheet.**

Title of Project: A measurement of cell phone environments.

This study has been approved by the UCL Research Ethics Committee (Project ID Number): 10463/001

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We would like to invite \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in this research project.

### **Details of Study:**

The primary task of this project is to determine if electronic devices have a measurable impact on their surroundings. We plan to use the information we collect to look for similarities between devices and geographic areas.

This project is conducted under the supervision of Gianluca Stringhini ([g.stringhini@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:g.stringhini@ucl.ac.uk)) from UCL's department of Computer Science and Mirco Musolesi ([m.musolesi@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:m.musolesi@ucl.ac.uk)) from the department of Geography. The app will not interfere with the operation of the phone. As long as there is some form of network connectivity, the data collection files will not grow past 10MB, the equivalent of two photos stored on the device nor will it interfere with the regular operation of your device.

We are looking for adults who own mobile phones and use them on a daily basis. If you agree to participate, you will install an application on your device that will collect data from the magnetometer and the GPS module available on your device. We are looking for description of geographic areas from the readings you provide. Because of this, we will get the most use of the data you provide if you keep it running in the background for as long as possible. We request a month of data collection, but if you can keep it for longer, better. This will allow us to get the most places possible and the most readings for the same places making our results all the better for it. The data collection files will be automatically sent back to a server in UCL and kept in the department of Geography. Our interest is to understand how your phone influences its external environment. The information we collect will only be used for research projects at UCL. We can offer those of you who are interested access to the full results of our work.

One important thing to note is that while we are working in identification, our goal is to determine if the signals emitted by mobile devices are unique. In essence we would like to tell phones apart, not people. Your identity is not the object of our study, however, we understand that the information we collect from your phone might reflect back on you. To this end we are putting all the necessary security measures in place to protect your privacy and assure that your data is only used for academic research purposes. The data will be encrypted during transmission and once received it is transferred to a server which is only accessible from inside UCL's network. We are doing our best to guarantee that the data collected will not be accessible by anyone except authorized researchers.

It is up to you to decide whether to take part or not; if after sending the information you wish to withdraw from the study at any time before publication, you may do so by simply finding the option to withdraw from within the application. You may withdraw at any time before the submission of this work for review. A decision to withdraw will have no negative consequence on you.

If you agree to participate and provide us with your email address you might be asked to participate in similar studies in the coming months. Your contact information will only be used in case of any follow-up studies or if you wish to receive the results once the study is complete. Your participation in any future studies is independent of your choice to participate today. Please discuss the information above with others if you wish or ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

**All data will be collected and stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.**