

What effect does reduced vision have on hazard perception test performance?

Do you drive a vehicle? Are you aged 18-75 years? Are you interested in the effects of impaired vision on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's (DVLA) hazard perception test and driving performance?

There is a great opportunity for you to undertake the hazard perception test, experience how you perform under different vision conditions and know how your eye movements are related to your performance. During driving, we make several eye movements which enable us to scan our driving environment in order to effectively perceive and react to various hazards on the roads. These eye movements and our hazard perception ability are, however, dependent on the quality of our vision which when defective, could affect our driving performance.

My PhD project investigates how reduced/poorer vision affects hazard perception test performance as well as the relationship that exists between our eye movements and our ability to detect and react to hazards on the roads.

If you are interested in being a participant, you will need to attend the Centre for Optometry and Vision Science at the Coleraine campus on two occasions at a time suitable for you.

At each visit, you will undertake a series of short vision assessments, and you will undertake the DVLA's hazard perception test while your eye movements are monitored with a camera. The study (first and second visits combined) should not take more than two hours with the opportunity for frequent breaks.

In addition to the University's COVID-19 risk assessments, the Centre for Optometry and Vision Science has specific measures in place to ensure strict hygiene and infection protocols. The researcher is an Optometrist and in accordance with these risk assessments and Optometry clinic protocols, he will be wearing PPE, conducting de-contamination of equipment and space after every participant's visit, and ensuring social distancing measures are complied with. All participants will also be required to wear a face mask during their visit.

For the purpose of the test, you will be required to wear your habitual glasses/contact lenses for driving, **and you will not have had any ocular conditions such as loss of peripheral (side) vision, cataract, glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration or alternating squint.**

Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

For further details please contact:

Frederick Asare (PhD Researcher)

Email: asare-f@ulster.ac.uk

Telephone: 07878073815

Supervisors:

Dr Julie-Anne Little, Prof Roger Anderson & Pdraig Mulholland
Optometry and Vision Science
School of Biomedical Sciences