QUALITATIVE

How the psych lab can support students doing qualitative dissertations

Lab spaces

Click here for a lab virtual tour!

• 2 person soundproofed booths - four can be booked on SONA. Ideal for one-to-one interviews or transcription. Each has two seats and a computer.

• 3-4 person soundproofed booths - you can book two of these, ideal for larger interviews/focus groups and transcription. Each has a computer.

• Teaching area - 8 computers for third year psychology students to use - ideal when the library is packed and any other time, you can also use these for transcription! You can also book the lab’s smart whiteboard for group work.

• Creative methods lab - funded by the Transforming Sexuality and Gender Research Cluster so the Cluster has priority. A 15 person multifunctional space, for focus groups and high quality filming. Contains a Mac pro, 42” 3D HDTV and Nintendo Wii. Book through psychology technicians with agreement of your supervisor.

Visit the website for more info: blogs.brighton.ac.uk/sasspsychlab

Why should I read this?

Now you are a psychology dissertation student your UniCard gives you unlimited access to the lab in M138 Mayfield House (first door on the left as you enter Mayfield from the campus). This guide brings together all the lab support for qualitative research. There is another guide for quantitative research. Click the green links for further online information.

If you want to explore anything in here further please visit the lab’s website (link at bottom of the page) or contact the psychology technicians.

Help with recruitment and lab space

SONA helps recruit participants more easily and book the experimental booths. You must use SONA if you are recruiting participants. You’ll be offered SONA workshops in due course.

Help with interviews and focus groups

As well as the smaller booths for interviews and focus groups, you can book the creative methods lab for larger focus groups or presenting video to up to 15 people.

We can lend portable voice recorders to record interviews, backup your recordings and put them on a USB for you.

The biggest chore is transcribing interviews - we offer headphones, transcription pedals and transcription...
Computers and iPads

Dissertation students can use any of the lab’s teaching area computers during opening hours, great for when the library is full and you need to write up your dissertation!

We have laptops and iPads which we can lend to staff and students. These are perfect for SONA questionnaires - you can record responses from participants wherever you are. iPads are also great for recording focus groups.

Want to know more?

Please speak to the Psychology Technicians if you have any questions about lab equipment, or you want any advice or technical help with anything the lab offers. They are in the office at the back of the lab, M139 Mayfield House, and would be delighted to help!

software to make this much easier - please ask for a demo!

Help with surveys

SONA contains a free online survey tool to allow you to easily create anonymous free-text, extended response questionnaires. You can also present audio, video and images to your participants. We can also offer you BOS, another survey tool if you are interested in longer written answers. You must not not use other survey providers as they may not comply with ethics requirements for data storage.

Help with data analysis

We offer NVIVO software on all the lab’s computers if you need to analyse qualitative data but don't like working with pen and paper - ask psychology technicians for a demo. You can book the Smart whiteboard to help you organise and record your thoughts and themes. We offer Transana software to help you code and analyse video data.

Help with creative methods

We offer creative methods resources like Lego, plasticine, and craft materials. We have the original Rorschach (inkblot) Test for elicitation. We offer a graphics tablet to draw on a computer and create animations.

The creative methods lab can be booked for you by supervisors and offers a Mac Pro with iMovie, Final Cut Pro, PhotoShop for video and audio editing and production. The creative methods lab can be configured flexibly, and includes a studio quality microphone - please speak to the psychology technicians to explore further!

Help with visual methods

We offer wearable cameras to capture video or stills, and camcorders and tripods to facilitate higher quality video and audio. We offer robot docks to remotely control iPhone or camera and automatically follow somebody’s movement.

Consider eye tracking

You can use an eye tracker to record where a participant looks at an image, video or website, and play it back to them and ask them questions about where they were looking. The psychology technicians can program your experiment for you.