PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

Title of Project: Decision Making Experiment

(1) What is the study about?
This study examines economic decision making in a choice setting. Participants are asked to choose which proportion of an endowment they want to allocate to each of two accounts.

(2) Who is carrying out the study?
This study is being conducted by Kiet Nguyen, PhD student under supervision of Dr Pablo Guillen, a Lecturer in Economics in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at The University of Sydney.

(3) What does the study involve?
Each session of this study takes place in a computer laboratory. The experiment involves participants interacting anonymously in groups of four. Each participant is given an initial endowment and can choose which proportion to allocate to two different accounts. Each participant will be seated in privacy at a separate terminal. At the conclusion of the session, the value of each participant’s holdings of experimental currency will be converted into cash at a pre-announced exchange rate and paid to the participant. Please read the experimental instructions for an in depth description of what the experiment involves.

(4) How much time will the study take?
Each session of this study will take approximately 1h30’ to complete. You may only participate in at most one session of this study.

(5) Can I withdraw from the study?
Participating in this study is completely voluntary – you are not under any obligation to consent. If you do consent, you can withdraw without penalty and without having to give any reason. You can withdraw from this study at any time. However should you withdraw while the experiment is in progress, your contribution history will remain in the data and you will not receive any payment. Note that data is anonymous, that is, your name is not matched with your behaviour in the experiment. Withdrawing from the study will not affect your relationship with the researcher(s) or The University of Sydney now or in the future.

(6) Will anyone else know the results?
All aspects of the study, including results, will be strictly confidential and only the researcher(s) will have access to information on participants. Personal identification will be recorded only for the purpose of accounting payments. A report of the study may be submitted for publication, but individual participants will not be identifiable in such a report.
(7) Will the study benefit me?

You will receive a payment in compensation for your time. The exact amount of the experimental payment will be calculated in the manner described under item (3) above, and as such it will depend upon the decisions that you make in the course of the experiment.

(8) Can I tell other people about the study?

You may tell other people about this study. However, the researcher(s) would appreciate it if you did not disclose details of the procedures to anyone who intends to participate in another session of the same study.

(9) What if I require further information?

You will receive further detailed information at the start of the session, and you will be able to discuss this with the researcher(s) and to ask any questions you may have at that time.

If you would like to know more at any stage, please feel free to contact Dr Pablo Guillen by email at pablo.guillen@sydney.edu.au.

(10) What if I have a complaint or concerns?

You are welcome to raise any concerns by contacting the researcher(s). If this does not resolve your concerns, you can contact the University’s Manager of Ethics Administration as detailed below.

Any person with concerns or complaints about the conduct of a research study can contact the Deputy Manager, Ethics Administration, University of Sydney on +61 2 8627 8176 (Telephone); +61 2 8627 8177 (Facsimile) or ro.humanethics@sydney.edu.au (Email).

This information sheet is for you to keep.