

## Exploring Materials and Sensory Preference in Prosthetics

This study has been approved by the UCL Research Ethics Committee: Project ID No. 5698/003



We are looking for amputees and people who wear prosthetic limbs to take part in a study led by Caitlin McMullan and Sarah Wilkes.

In this study we will explore how the choice of materials offered for prosthetic limbs affects your experience of them. We will also explore whether particular materials or textures stimulate phantom limb sensations.

The overall aim of the study is to better understand the sensory and material preferences of wearers of prosthetic limbs. This will be fed back to clinicians, prosthetists and manufacturers, with the potential to inform the design of prosthetic limbs.

If you choose to take part in this study, you will be invited to an individual materials handling session at the Centre for Contemporary Arts in Glasgow on the 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> of November. Future sessions will also take place at the Institute of Making in London, dates tbc.

The session will last approximately 2 hours, and you will be asked some questions about your personal experiences of the materials currently used in prosthetics. You will then be asked to handle a selection of 15-20 materials that you may recognise from everyday life, and give written responses to a series of questions about them. You will be asked whether any of the materials induce phantom limb sensations, if applicable. You may also be invited to take part in an optional follow-on interview with Caitlin McMullan.

If you choose to take part in this study we will reimburse your travel costs and pay £7.50/hour for your time.

You do not need to have experienced phantom limb sensations to take part in the study, but you must be aged over 18. This study involves handling samples of materials with different textures: if you experience more than minimal phantom limb pain or discomfort from handling materials such as plastics and fabrics then you should not take part. Please let us know in advance if you have any known allergies to common metals and materials.

If you are interested in taking part or would like to know more, please get in touch:  
Sarah Wilkes, UCL Institute of Making: [s.wilkes@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.wilkes@ucl.ac.uk)  
Caitlin McMullan: [cagmcmullan@gmail.com](mailto:cagmcmullan@gmail.com)

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Who will be running the materials handling sessions?**

The sessions will be run by Caitlin McMullan, a designer, researcher and below knee amputee, and Dr Sarah Wilkes, a materials researcher at the Institute of Making.

### **What will happen to information collected about me during the study?**

We will assign you with a pseudonym when you start the study, which means your responses will not be identifiable. Your personal data will be kept strictly confidential and will only be processed by the research team for the purposes of this study. We will minimise the processing of your personal data wherever possible. Your personal data will only be processed for long as it is required for the research project.

The data controller for this project will be University College London (UCL). The UCL Data Protection Office provides oversight of UCL activities involving the processing of personal data. If you are concerned about how your personal data is being processed, please contact UCL in the first instance at [data-protection@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@ucl.ac.uk).

### **What will happen to the results of the research study?**

The results from the study will be fed back to clinicians, prosthetists and manufacturers. Your responses will be anonymous, so you will not be identifiable in any presentations or publications.

We would also like to keep you updated about the progress of the project, which we will do through blog posts on the Institute of Making website and a brief summary of the study that will be available in August 2019.

### **Further Questions?**

If you have any other questions, you can speak to Sarah Wilkes by telephone (02031 084405) or by email ([s.wilkes@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.wilkes@ucl.ac.uk)).

### **Concerns or Complaints?**

If you have any complaints or concerns about this study you should contact the UCL researcher ([s.wilkes@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.wilkes@ucl.ac.uk)) or the Chair of the UCL Research Ethics Committee ([ethics@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ethics@ucl.ac.uk)).