



**TAALMAATJES STUDIE**  
**INFORMATION LETTER**

PSY-2122-S-0408

The study in short:

- The **goal of the study** is to improve Kletsmaatjes. We will ask questions about the contact with your kletsmaatje.
- Participation in the study is **voluntary**. You can choose to participate. You can always withdraw from the study.
- You will receive **three online questionnaires** (this week, in 6 months and in 9 months). We will mail you a link to the questionnaire.
- You can fill out the questionnaire on your mobile phone. It will take **10 – 15 minutes**.
- The questionnaire is **in Dutch on A2-level**. It is not a test: there are no right or wrong answers.
- Only the researchers will see your answers. The researchers do not know who you are.
- Participation in the study **does not influence** your participation in Kletsmaatjes in any way.
- To thank you, you can win a prize: a trip with your kletsmaatje or a book.
- Do you have questions about the study? You can contact the researchers via [taalmaatjes.studie@rug.nl](mailto:taalmaatjes.studie@rug.nl).

You can read more about the study on the website of Kletsmaatjes (in Dutch):

<https://www.kletsmaatjes.nl/onderzoek-veelgestelde-vragen/>.

Or you can read more detailed information about the study on the next pages.



## INFORMATION ABOUT THE STUDY

### Why do I receive this information?

- You are invited to participate in a study about Kletsmaatjes, an online language buddy program by Stichting Het Begint met Taal ([www.kletsmaatjes.nl](http://www.kletsmaatjes.nl)).
- We are researchers of the University of Groningen and we would like to know more about the contact between newcomers and volunteers during their Kletsmaatjes sessions.
- The research is meant for newcomers and volunteers who start between October 2022 and January 2023 with Kletsmaatjes.
- You are invited to this research, because you have been matched with a kletsmaatje in the prior week.
- For you, the study takes 9 months. The whole research project will take place from October 2022 until December 2023.
- The Ethical Committee of Psychology of the University of Groningen has deliberated and approved the research plan.
- The research will be carried out by Eline Heikamp (main researcher) and prof. dr. Nina Hansen, in collaboration with Stichting Het Begint met Taal.

### Do I have to participate in this study?

- Participation in this study is voluntary. You can choose whether you want to participate or not. Your consent to participate is necessary.
- Please read this information letter carefully. Ask any question you might have to Eline Heikamp ([taalmaatjes.studie@rug.nl](mailto:taalmaatjes.studie@rug.nl)).
- Then decide if you want to participate. You do not have to explain why in case you decide not to participate. Not participating does not have any negative consequences.
- You can withdraw from the study at any moment. You do not have to explain why you want to withdraw. Withdrawing does not have any negative consequences.
- These rights always apply, even after you have given your consent to participate in the study.

### Why this research?

- In collaboration with Stichting Het Begint met Taal, we examine the experiences of participants of Kletsmaatjes, the contact between newcomers and volunteers and potential effects of participating in Kletsmaatjes.



- We hope to learn when newcomers and volunteers have a positive experience.
- Results will be used to improve the project
- We will share research results with other organizations, so they can learn as well.

### **What do you need to do during the study?**

- You will receive an invitation for the study and link to a registration form via email, send by the program director of Kletsmaatjes, Bastiaan Weldring.
- If you are interested in participating in the study, you can sign up via the registration form.
- You will be asked to leave your email address and to give consent to participate.
- If you give your consent, you will receive three online questionnaires: You will receive the first questionnaire at the start of your Kletsmaatjes sessions (this week), the second at the end of your sessions (in 6 months), and the third three months after the end of the sessions (in 9 months).
- We will send you an email with a link to the questionnaire. You can fill out the questionnaire on your mobile phone.
- Questions about your background, your participation in Kletsmaatjes, potential effects of participating in Kletsmaatjes and the sessions between you and your Kletsmaatje will be asked.
- You will answer the questions yourself. The questionnaire will be in Dutch (A2 level).
- The questionnaire is not a test. There are no right or wrong answers.
- Filling out a questionnaire will take 10-15 minutes per questionnaire.
- If you like, you can take part in a follow-up interview. You will be asked to sign up for an interview at the end of the second questionnaire. Interviews will give us more insight in the experiences of newcomers and volunteers.

### **What consequences might participating in the study have?**

- Results of this research will provide insights into how newcomers and volunteers experience the sessions with each other. In addition, results will show in a systematic way in what manner Kletsmaatjes contributes to the integration of newcomers.
- Insights will help Stichting Het Begint met Taal to further improve Kletsmaatjes and other language buddy programs.
- The risk of experiencing negative emotions (sadness, anger, loneliness) when asked about the contact with your language buddy is very low. In case you do experience negative emotions, you can reach out to the researchers ([taalmaatjes.studie@rug.nl](mailto:taalmaatjes.studie@rug.nl)).



### How do we handle your personal data?

- We will carefully handle your personal data, according to the Dutch privacy law ([GDPR](#)).
- We will not ask you for your name. We do not know who you are. We cannot identify you based on your answers.
- We will ask for your email address. Your email address will be used to send the questionnaires to you. If you like, you will be invited for a follow up interview via your email address. In addition, we will check once with the program directors of Kletsmaatjes whether you and your language buddy participate in the program.
- It is possible that both you and your kletsmaatje participate in the study. If that happens, we will match your answers to the answers of your kletsmaatje. We will give each duo (newcomer and volunteer) a duo code (a 6-digit number) based on their email addresses.
- Your email address will be deleted at the end of the study (ultimately January 2024).
- Your answers will not be shared with your kletsmaatje or anyone involved in the project! Only the researchers will see your answers.
- We will not share your personal answers with other organizations or research institutes.
- Your answers will be stored according to the guidelines of the University of Groningen (minimum of 10 years).

### What do I get in return?

- To thank you for your participation in the study, you will have a chance to win a prize! We will give away five trips among Kletsmaatjes duos who both participate in the study. Duos can take this trip together, for example going to a museum or zoo.
- In addition, all participants who filled out the questionnaire three times will have a chance to win one of ten books.
- You automatically participate in the raffle.
- We will send you (and your kletsmaatje) an email when you have won a prize.



### What about my regular Kletsmaatjes sessions?

- Participating in this study does not influence your participation in Kletsmaatjes in any way.
- Your Kletsmaatjes sessions will continue as normal.
- You will receive emails from Kletsmaatjes to evaluate your sessions. These mails are not part of this study.
- Do you have any questions about your Kletsmaatje or your sessions? Please contact our coordinator or the program directors via [kletsmaatjes@hetbegintmettaal.nl](mailto:kletsmaatjes@hetbegintmettaal.nl).

### How can I ask questions about the study?

- You can always ask questions about the study; right now, during and after the study. Please ask your questions to the main researcher via ([taalmaatjes.studie@rug.nl](mailto:taalmaatjes.studie@rug.nl)).
- You can also visit de Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page at the website of Kletsmaatjes: (in Dutch): <https://www.kletsmaatjes.nl/onderzoek-veelgestelde-vragen/>.
- Do you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research participant? You can contact the Ethical Committee Psychology of the University of Groningen via: [ecp@rug.nl](mailto:ecp@rug.nl).

### Timeline

Below, you can find a visual representation of the study timeline, in relation to Kletsmaatjes.

