

Participant Management Made Simple

Manage your participant pool with Sona Systems comprehensive research platform for universities.



Comprehensive Participant Recruitment and Research Management Platform for Universities of All Sizes.

Our platform helps thousands of universities around the world run their own participant pools, set up lab studies and online studies, and manage credits or paid participation.

Researchers can quickly and easily manage study schedules, prescreen participants, and restrict eligibility based on past participation in other studies. They can also recruit and manage their own panel for richer participant profiles.

Universities that switch to our software from a paper-based system typically see overall participation rates increase by 25–50% and no-show rates drop to below 5% — all while meeting major compliance requirements.

We have over 1,000 customers in 30 countries and 6 continents.

We serve all of the top 50 universities in the US and the majority of all universities in the UK, Canada, and Australia. Since 2002, we've had more than 56 million study sign ups and continue to see this number grow.

TOTAL STUDIES MANAGED

695,393

TOTAL USERS REGISTERED

19,392,904

TOTAL SIGN UPS PROCESSED

56,323,834

Who Uses Sona Systems?



Participants

To participate in studies, gain research experience, and earn credits or compensation.



Researchers

To conduct studies, manage participants, and administer credits or earnings.



Instructors

To track their students' research participation progress.



Research Coordinators

To improve research efficiency and meet compliance requirements.



Simplified Research Administration

Researchers can quickly schedule studies and recruit participants. We make it easy to set up studies with special requirements or prerequisites, or restrict eligibility based on a participant's course enrollment. Researchers can also receive email notifications about sign-ups, study completions, or cancellations, and manage participation credits or monetary compensation in just a few clicks.

For more control of your research study data, our platform can integrate with more than 25 online survey and experiment tools, including Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey, Gorilla, and PsychoPy.

Regional Support

To ensure data only resides in the customer's region, we deploy each customer site to servers in data centers in the regions closest to where they operate. These regions currently include the US, Canada, Europe and Asia. Our certified IT team and staff work a mix of U.S., E.U., and Asia-Pacific hours to provide customers with timely personalized support.

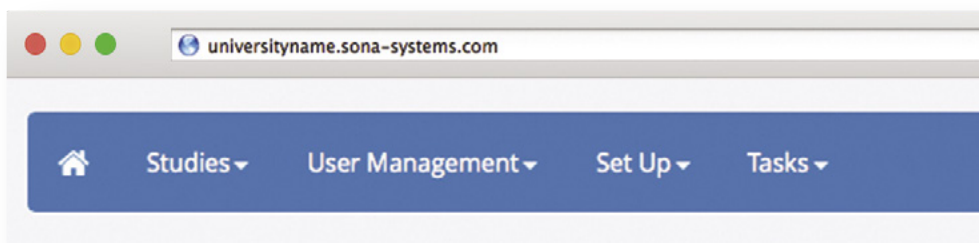
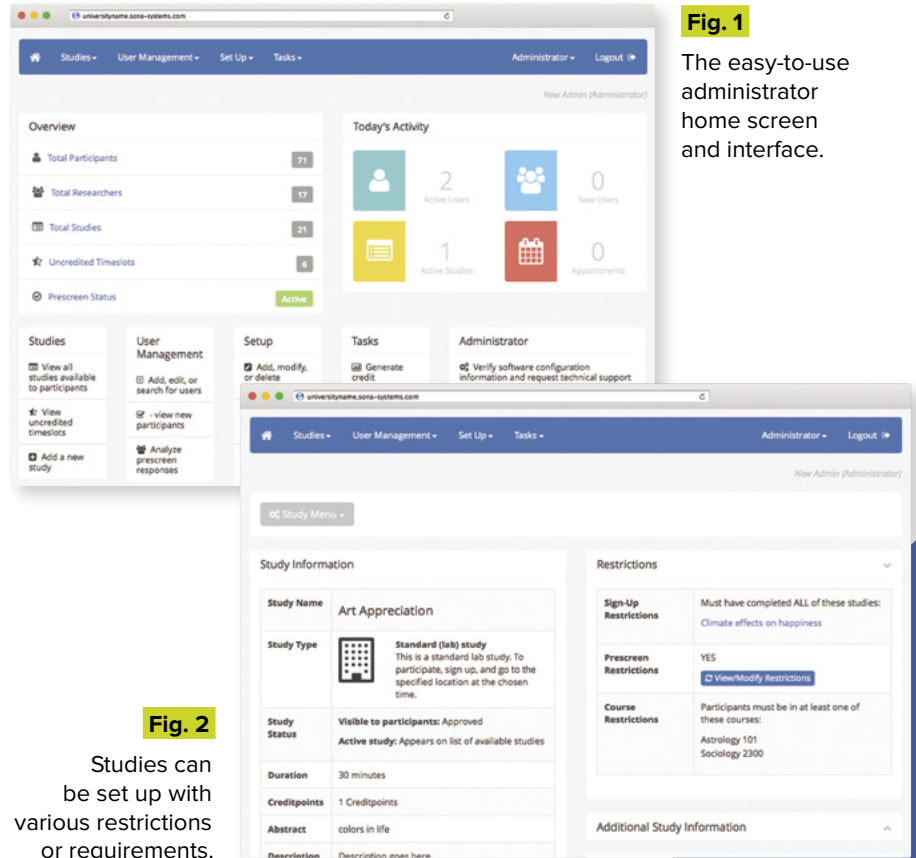


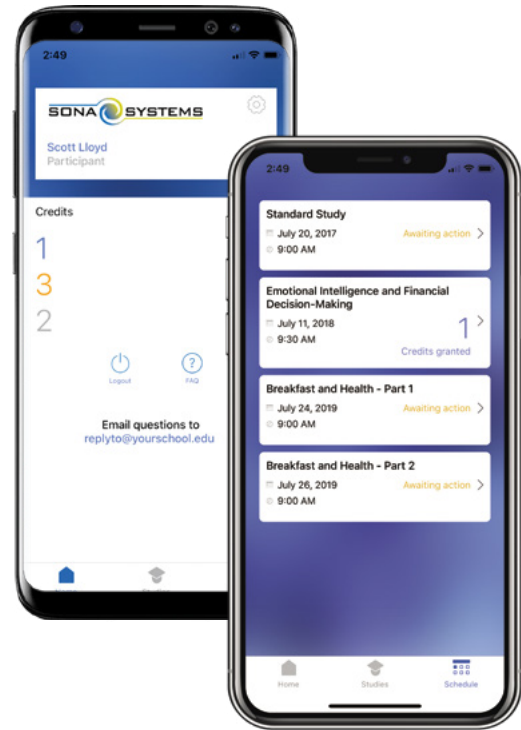
Fig. 3

There is nothing to install or manage on the IT side, and all access is from a web browser.

iOS & Android App

With our mobile app, participants can sign up for studies, check their schedules, and track credit earnings at their convenience.

Researchers can also access study sign-ups and check in participants as they arrive for a study by scanning a participant's QR code.



Advanced Online Prescreening

Using our prescreening feature, participants answer demographic questions set up by research coordinators. Then researchers can limit their studies to only qualified participants who display specific attitudes, biases, or conditions, based on prescreen responses.

Researchers can also view prescreen data before and after a study for a greater understanding of the participant pool demographics, and set up various measures, batteries, and inventories, and can even compute sum or mean scores across a set of measures, including reverse scales.

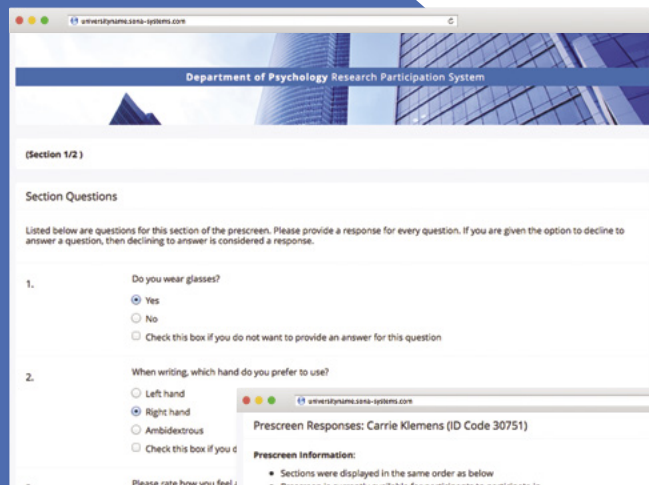
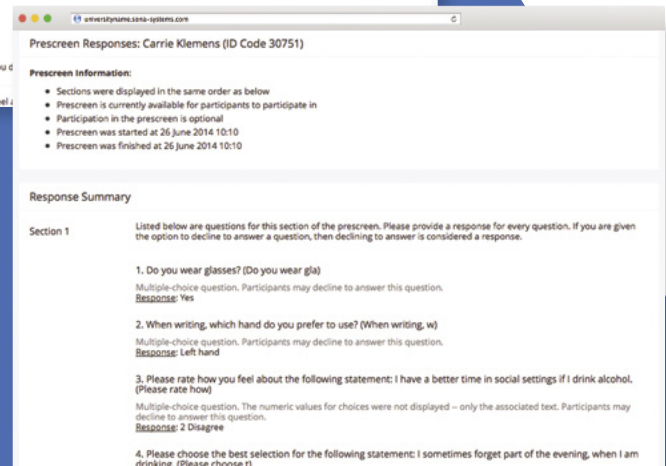


Fig. 4

A completely customizable prescreen questionnaire tool.

Fig. 5

The prescreen results page details participant responses.



Credit Management

Sona Systems allows researchers to grant credits based on study participation. Research coordinators can establish the number of credits needed for a participant to complete their course requirements; they can also give non-study credits for participants who decide to complete research alternatives. Participants can choose which of their courses to assign study credit to, making it easier to track their progress towards meeting course requirements.

Fig. 6

View time slots across researcher's studies, and manage credits.

Study	Date	Participant	Grant Credit?
General Survey	Online study ending 24 May 2013 9:00	Randy Stagg ID Code 31324	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No Action Taken <input type="radio"/> Grant Credit <input type="radio"/> Unexcused No-Show <input type="radio"/> Excused No-Show
Mobile vs Landline Study	15 May 2014 9:30 - 10:00	Phil Bacon ID Code 31420	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No Action Taken <input type="radio"/> Grant Credit <input type="radio"/> Unexcused No-Show <input type="radio"/> Excused No-Show
Essence of S	15 May 2014 10:00 - 10:30	Amanda Abshire ID Code 30970	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No Action Taken <input type="radio"/> Grant Credit <input type="radio"/> Unexcused No-Show <input type="radio"/> Excused No-Show
Essence of S	15 May 2014 10:00 - 10:30	Richard Fish ID Code 31453	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No Action Taken <input type="radio"/> Grant Credit <input type="radio"/> Unexcused No-Show <input type="radio"/> Excused No-Show
Essence of S	15 May 2014 10:00 - 10:30	Carrie Klemens ID Code 30751	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No Action Taken <input type="radio"/> Grant Credit <input type="radio"/> Unexcused No-Show <input type="radio"/> Excused No-Show

Robust Reporting

Administrators can monitor system usage, such as open time slots or the number of credits granted, and also view attendance, prescreen completion rates, credit usage, and usage of the pool by participants and researchers. Data can be downloaded at any time in CSV format and be directly imported into Microsoft Excel or other data analysis tools for further analysis.

Fig. 7

Pull basic or detailed reports about pool usage, including how many credits each participant earned for their course.

Study Information

Studies: 21
Timeslots: 66
Total Number of Unfilled Past Timeslots: 289
Total Number of No-Shows: 2 (2 Unexcused, 0 Excused)
Total Study Creditspoints Granted: 27.5
Total Non-Study Creditspoints Granted: 14.5
Total Future Creditspoints Available: 90
Total Pending (Awaiting Action) Creditspoints Granted: 8
Overall Creditspoints Completion Rate: 6.69% (0.58% with pending Creditspoints)

Number of Total Studies

Study Type	Paid Studies	Creditspoints Studies	Study Type
Standard Studies	2	10	12
Two Part Studies	1		
Online Survey Studies	0		
Online External Studies	0		
TOTAL	3		

Fig. 8

View how many credits participants earned for their courses.

Psych 100: Credit Completion Report

Instructor: Harry Sullivan - Phone: 202-555-2011 - harrys@sullivanschool.edu

Name	Student ID #	Overall Creditspoints Earned	Overall Creditspoints Required	Overall Unexcused No-Shows	Creditspoints Earned for Course
Abshire, Amanda annika@sona-systems.com		6.5	0	0	4
Allers, John jallers@yourschool.edu		0	4	0	0
Bass, Frank ourwen@nhg.com	4634634	0	4	0	0
Bass, Frank annika@sona-systems.com		6	4	0	5

Global Compliance

Sona Systems is in compliance with all major research regulations and guidelines worldwide. We provide full access control so researchers can only view sign ups for their own studies, and participants can never see information about other participants. Our platform meets the following:

EU GDPR

45 CFR 46

CCPA

FERPA

WCAG 2.0

HIPAA

VPAT

SECTION 508

EN 301 549

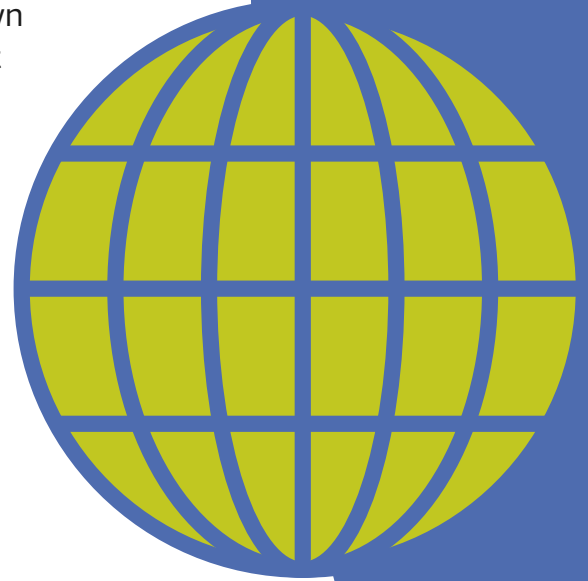
HECVAT

SSL

SOC2

PIPEDA

TRI-COUNCIL POLICY



Documentation

Detailed documentation is provided to help customers get set up quickly or for those interested in learning how to use Sona Systems to optimize research productivity. Customers are welcome to copy and customize our documentation to fit their users' needs.

International Interface

For universities outside the English-speaking world, our software is available for participants in several languages in addition to English, including Spanish, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Japanese, Korean, French, German, Turkish, Portuguese, Hebrew, Polish, and Russian, and for researchers in English and Japanese. If the preferred language is different from the above, users are still able to seamlessly enter data, like study names and prescreen questions, into their preferred language.





The rates of incompletes in the semester after we started using [Sona Systems'] Experiment Management System dropped to under 5% as compared to incomplete rates of around 20% using pencil-and-paper sign ups. In addition, research participation easily doubled as compared to students who chose alternative forms of research credit.

As a research pool coordinator, I like the fact that all the features mentioned make my job so much easier and free up time for me to do what I want...research. The instructors in the department like the system because they do not have to rely on me to receive information about their students credit."

— **MARTIN BINK, PH.D.**
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS



Imagine nearly 8,000 student sessions, hundreds of experiments, dozens of researchers, and you sitting in the middle of a sea of paper, complaints, missed sessions, confused students, frustrated experimenters and educators, and many millions of dollars in research grants on the line for a department with a #1 nationally ranked program.

participation, greatly reducing staff time and errors, providing real-time feedback and reporting to all concerned parties, and sailing through Human Subject approval with a turn-key system. Furthermore, imagine no server management costs, and no technical staff time needed beyond walking staff through initial setup, and you have our experience with Sona Systems"

Now imagine, in the span of 1 quarter, removing almost all paper and providing 24/7 access, increasing

— **JON HAUSER**
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Start managing your participant pool with Sona Systems today!

Contact us for a free 30 day demonstration.

Features Include

- Research Management
- Research Reporting
- Prescreening
- Participant Recruitment
- Credit Management
- Paid Study Management
- 3rd Party Integration
- Global Accessibility
- Compliance
- SSO (Single Sign-On)
- API Integration

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