



SOP-06 | Online Experiments

Standard Operating Procedure

Document	SOP-06
Status	Draft for internal approval
Version	0.1
Effective date	Upon approval
Owner	BEER Lab Manager
Review cycle	At least annually
Applies to	Projects and personnel within the scope of this SOP

Behavioral & Experimental Economics Research Lab · Tecnológico de Monterrey

1. Purpose

Define minimum operational standards for asynchronous and synchronous online experiments using BEER infrastructure or recruitment.

2. Study types

- Asynchronous individual: participants complete at a time of their choosing.
- Synchronous individual: participants connect at a scheduled time but do not interact strategically with others.
- Synchronous interactive: participant decisions depend on other live participants.

3. Technical readiness

- Test the study on major supported browsers and intended device types.
- Test server capacity, session creation, randomization, payment calculations, and data export.
- Interactive studies must test disconnect, reconnection, timeout, and partner-loss contingencies.
- The participant invitation must disclose any nonstandard device or connectivity requirement.

4. Identity and duplicate controls

Use project tokens, platform IDs, or BEER participant IDs to reduce duplicate participation. Device fingerprints, IP addresses, or other technical identifiers may be used only when proportionate, privacy-compliant, and covered by the approved protocol.

5. Automated responses and data quality

Bot detection, comprehension checks, minimum engagement rules, implausible completion-time flags, and exclusion criteria should be established before outcome analysis whenever possible. Flags should distinguish suspicious data from payment eligibility.

6. Synchronous sessions

- Use a check-in window and clearly defined late-arrival rule.
- If the researcher cannot run the session because of a project-side technical failure, participants who connected on time receive the applicable show-up payment.
- Predefine what happens if a participant disconnects or an interactive group becomes incomplete.

7. Communication

- Do not use participant contact information for unrelated follow-up.
- Support messages should not reveal treatment status or the hypothesis.
- Material platform outages or payment delays should be communicated promptly.

8. Data security

Use secure connections, role-based access, and approved storage. Do not embed direct identifiers in behavioral datasets unless necessary. Downloaded exports containing identifiers must be handled under SOP-09.

9. Related documents

- SOP-03 Participant Recruitment
- SOP-04 Participant Compensation
- SOP-09 Data Protection and Participant IDs
- SOP-10 Incident Reporting