How to Run a Study on Amazon Mechanical Turk

Create a Project
1. Go to mturk.com
2. Click on “Get Started with Amazon Mechanical Turk”
3. Click on “Create a Requester account”
4. Sign in with your Amazon account or create a new account
5. If you are running the study via a survey link (e.g., Qualtrics), click on the orange button “Create Project”

6. Now you are in the “Edit Project” page. On the “Enter Properties” tab, set up project properties. Below is an example:

![MTurk Project Creation Screen](image)

7. Also, set up your HIT (human intelligence task; this is how MTurk calls a study)
   a. Reward per assignment: how much you want to pay each participant (called MTurk Worker)
b. Number of assignments per HIT: how many participants you want
   i. For N < 10, MTurk charges 20% fee; for N >= 10 (almost always our case), MTurk charges 40% fee. Remember to include fees in your budget. See https://requester.mturk.com/pricing for more details of pricing
   ii. If you are not sure, start small and monitor the results before recruiting thousands of participants; you can always publish more batches (i.e., recruit more participants) later

c. Time allotted per assignment: the maximum time a Worker can work on your project (NOT estimated time for completion). Sometimes Workers might sign up before they finish other studies, so it’s a good idea to leave generous amount of time (I do 2 hours) for Workers to complete your study with no rush

d. HIT expires in: usually data come in very quickly, unless you require special qualifications (e.g., smokers)

e. Auto-approve and pay: leave enough time so you are able to check the data, but not too long so Workers can get paid in a timely fashion

![Setting up your HIT](image)

8. Set up Worker requirements (what type of participants you want)
   a. Require Workers to be Masters: a group of Workers who have been assigned the qualification of Masters because they “consistently demonstrate accuracy” in their work. There will be an additional charge
   b. Specify additional qualifications
      i. I usually specify a HIT approval rate of at least 95%
      ii. There is an additional charge for premium qualifications
      iii. You can set up your own qualifications. For example, if you don't want people who participated in a previous project to participate in your current project, you can create a qualification “Previous Participant” and assign it to previous participants, and exclude people who have this qualification. For details, see https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSMechTurk/latest/RequesterUI/CreatingaQualificationType.html (creating a qualification type),
9. Now you’ve finished setting up project properties. At the bottom of this page, click on “Design Layout.” This is how you want the study page to look
   a. Remind Workers to leave the window open, and come back to provide the survey code after they complete the survey
      i. In your Qualtrics survey, remember to generate a random code for every participant so they can enter the code here. To set this up in Qualtrics, see [https://blog.mturk.com/tutorial-getting-great-survey-results-from-mturk-and-qualtrics-f5366f0bd880](https://blog.mturk.com/tutorial-getting-great-survey-results-from-mturk-and-qualtrics-f5366f0bd880) (the part on “Generating a Completing Code in Qualtrics”)
   b. Paste your survey link after “Survey link.”

10. Click on “Preview,” make sure everything looks good, and click on “Finish”
11. Yay now you have a project! To recruit Workers, click on “Publish Batch,” click on “Next.” You probably need to sign in again, and the next page shows the cost summary (including reward to Workers and MTurk fees)
12. Enter your payment information, click on “Purchase & Publish”
13. You will receive a confirmation email that the payment was received. And you will be led to a page where there is a progress bar showing how many Workers have completed your project. It will be filled up quickly!

Manage Projects
14. Don't forget to pay Workers (especially if you didn’t set up auto-pay). On the top of the webpage, go to “Manage”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Workers</th>
<th>Qualification Types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Under “Results,” you can see the progress of each batch you’ve published; click on one to see details of that batch and pay Workers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Under “Workers,” you can see a list of the Workers who completed your projects. If you want to block/unblock or assign a qualification type to multiple Workers, download the .csv file, make changes in the file, and upload it to the webpage</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>c. Under “Qualification Types,” create and customize your own qualifications</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Manage Qualification Types
Below is a list of your Qualification Types and the corresponding number of Workers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification Types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part Participant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>