Q&A Guidelines

Q&A is where you exchange high-quality questions and answers in a research-focused environment. This collaborative approach to problem-solving will help you connect with specialists and build your reputation, at any stage of your career. We’ve put together these guidelines so that you can get the most out of Q&A – and to make sure it remains relevant, professional, and useful.

Asking a good question

Title

Your question is the first thing another researcher sees. It should be clear, concise, and contain enough information so that others can see what it’s about at first glance.

Explanation

This is where you provide all the details that other researchers will need to answer your question. It’s best to be specific, so be sure to provide any necessary context and background information. You can even attach resources that help to explain your problem, such as images and graphs.

Note: Please make sure you have sufficient rights to share your resources before you do so.

Style

The key to getting the answers you’re looking for is to keep your questions simple, informative, and concise. Correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar make all the difference. Always keep in mind that Q&A is where you engage with other scientists on a professional level. Please also note that questions asked in English are preferred.

Adding a good answer

A good answer is a comprehensive and considered response to the original question, and maybe even answers the question outright. Good answers often come from researchers who’ve experienced similar problems and can draw on their own research experience. Consider attaching resources to your answer or a reference to a publication.

Note: Please make sure you have sufficient rights to share your resources before you do so.

Editing and deleting policy

To keep Q&A relevant, we may edit your question or answer in minor ways, for example, to correct typos or grammatical errors.

Inappropriate behavior

Inappropriate behavior in Q&A will not be tolerated. Please refer to our Community Guidelines to see what kind of behavior we see as inappropriate. Furthermore, the following types of content will not be accepted in Q&A:

- General knowledge questions that can be answered easily using a search engine
- Content that is unrelated to the question
- Requests for help with homework, dissertation titles, or dissertation topics
- Questions relating to the general use of ResearchGate

Please note: Content of the above nature will be deleted. Furthermore, members engaging in repeated inappropriate behavior will have their accounts disabled.
Recommending and reporting

You can help determine which questions and answers become most visible in Q&A. Recommending high-quality questions and answers is how you can ensure that the most relevant content appears most prominently. You can also help to make sure that quality on ResearchGate remains high by reporting inappropriate content.

Questions about ResearchGate

If your question is about your ResearchGate account or if you have feedback or suggestions for us, please don’t respond in Q&A – contact us instead.

Top tips for Q&A

- Make sure your question title is clear, concise, and asks a question.
- Search to see if your question has already been asked before posting.
- Recommend good questions and answers instead of saying “thanks” or “good question”.
- Keep it professional, and help us maintain a high standard.
- Report inappropriate questions and answers to help us maintain a high standard.