Getting started

Signing up for ResearchGate

Following researchers and content

Recommending and sharing content

Contacting other researchers

Inviting colleagues to ResearchGate

What is ResearchGate?

ResearchGate is the professional network for scientists and researchers. We help researchers connect and make it easy for them to share and access scientific output, knowledge, and expertise.

How is it useful?

ResearchGate connects you with content and researchers that you’ll find valuable to your own work. Here’s how:

- Connect with colleagues, co-authors, and specialists in your field
- Add your research to your profile to make it discoverable to other researchers
- Add your current project to your profile to share updates about what you’re working on right now
- Access publications and data that other researchers have shared
- Ask research-related questions and get answers from a unique community of experts
- Share your knowledge and expertise by answering questions

How to get started

Getting started with ResearchGate is easy – here’s a quick overview of what to do first:

**Complete your profile**

The first step is to customize your profile and add your publications and research to it.

- Profiles with a photo receive an average of 150% more views, so it’s a good idea to add your photo from day one
- Add your skills and expertise so that other researchers and potential collaborators can find out what your work is about
- Adding your institution and department will help us connect you with people you know on ResearchGate, as will importing contacts from your email address book
- For more information about editing your profile information, see Account settings

Once you’ve set up your profile, go to your Related researchers page to find people to follow.

**Discover research**

Your Home Feed (Click on Home at the top left of any page) is where you can discover the latest publications, data, and projects from your network. For more information about finding and claiming your own publications, see Authorship.

**Explore Q&A**

Q&A (click on Questions at the top of any page) is where you can ask research-related questions and get them answered by specialists. If you haven’t got a question right now, try answering some – it’s a great way to start sharing your knowledge, connect with others, and identify yourself as an expert in your field.

For more information about getting started, take a look at the sections above to find out how to sign up and how to build your network on ResearchGate.

Top questions

- **My email address isn’t recognized. Can I still sign up?**

  ResearchGate is a professional network where scientists and researchers can share and access scientific output, knowledge, and expertise. We ask that you sign up with your institutional email address so that we can verify that you are a researcher – you can always change it after sign-up.

  If you have an institutional email address that we don’t recognize, please follow the normal registration procedure to request an account. The request will be processed manually so can take a short period of time.

  If you’re a published researcher but don’t have an institutional email address, we’re happy to look into your account request manually. Please contact us with details of your present and past institutional affiliations, field of research and publications, preferably with supporting links.
If you're not a researcher, you can still browse ResearchGate and discover content such as publications, jobs, and questions without being registered.

I haven’t received the account activation email
If you haven’t received your email confirmation within 24 hours you can try the following options:

- Make sure the email did not end up in your junk mail folder
- Go back to your Account settings page and verify you’ve added your new login email address correctly
- Add ResearchGate to your address book. See Email Instructions
- Contact your email administrator to ensure all emails from @researchgate.net or @researchgatemail.net can be received. For more information on how to do this, see Managing your email settings
- Once you’ve added ResearchGate to your address book, you can request another activation email here: Contact us. Under Didn’t find what you were looking for in the help center? select the option I would like to receive the account activation email again. Please fill in your email address, and click Send activation email. You should receive a new activation email within 5 minutes. If you have requested the confirmation email multiple times, please note only the latest link will be active
- If you’ve tried all of these options and still haven’t received the email, please Contact us.

How do I follow another researcher?
To follow a researcher, go to their profile and click the Follow button on the top right-hand side. You can also click the Follow button that appears next to their name in any suggestions you see around the site. To find more researchers whose work you might be interested in, go to your Related researchers page. We’ll let someone know when you follow them so they have the option to follow you back.

Inviting my co-authors to ResearchGate
One way to make sure that your publications gain maximum exposure among your peers is by inviting your co-authors to join you on ResearchGate when you add publications to your profile. This way, they too can create a profile, confirm authorship of their work and share it with their own network. If you’d like your co-authors to join you, just make sure that the Invite my co-authors to ResearchGate box is checked when you’re adding publications, and where possible, an invitation will be sent to them. Invitations will only be sent if this box is checked; ResearchGate does not email your co-authors on your behalf without your knowledge or consent.

You can customize this feature at any time. To do this, go to your Invitation settings and uncheck the box at the top of the page that reads Invite my co-authors to ResearchGate.

We take personal data and anti-spam policies very seriously; our processes are compliant with European and U.S. regulations and are audited on a regular basis.

Can I invite contacts from my email address book?
Yes! The fastest way to find people you know or invite people to join you on ResearchGate is to import your email address book.

You can import your contacts in a few simple steps:

1. Go to your Related researchers page
2. You’ll see the Find your colleagues heading
3. Click on your email provider symbol and follow the instructions provided.

Note: ResearchGate will never store your email password.