

# Getting started

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## 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 other researchers, helps you discover content valuable to your work, and lets you make your own research visible. Here's how:

- Connect with colleagues, co-authors, and specialists in your field
- Add your research to your profile to make it discoverable by other researchers
- Add your current project to your profile to share updates and get feedback on what you're working on
- Access publications and other work in your field and from your network
- Ask research-related questions and get answers from experts
- Share your knowledge and expertise by answering questions
- Get stats on your work and find out who's been reading and citing it
- Explore the latest jobs matched to your researcher profile
- Share your preprints and other early work to get feedback from others before you publish it

## Is ResearchGate a publisher?

ResearchGate is not a publisher and does not accept articles or papers for publication. Rather, members can track their publications, store private copies, and make their published or unpublished work publicly available on ResearchGate – if they have the rights to do so.

## How do I get started?

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

If you haven't registered yet, start by visiting [www.researchgate.net](http://www.researchgate.net) and clicking **Join for free**.

### Complete your profile

Once your account is created, complete your profile to start connecting with your colleagues and other researchers around the world. Here are some tips to get you started:

- Profiles with a photo receive an average of 150% more views on average, 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
- Add your institution and department to help us connect you with people you know on ResearchGate
- For more information on editing your profile information, see [Account settings](#)
- For more information on finding and claiming your own publications, see [Authorship](#).

Once you've set up your profile, go to your [Related researchers](#) page to find people to follow.

### Discover research

Your home feed is where you'll discover the latest research and other updates from your network. Simply click **Home** at the top left of any page to get back to your home feed.

### Explore Q&A

Q&A is where you can ask research-related questions, get them answered by specialists, and share your own expertise. If you haven't got a question to ask, try answering some – it's a great way to share your knowledge, connect with others, and identify yourself as an expert in your field.

To get to Q&A, click **Questions** at the top left of any page.

## Top questions

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.

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](#).

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.

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.

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.