

# Security and privacy

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**We take personal data policies very seriously. For more information, read our [Privacy Policy](#).**

## How much information is visible on my profile?

ResearchGate gives you the option to choose how much of your information is displayed – both publicly and to other ResearchGate members. To customize who sees what, follow these steps:

1. Go to your [Privacy Settings](#)
2. Select the drop-down menu underneath **Your research**
3. Choose who can see your Researcher info by selecting **Everyone, ResearchGate members** or **Mutual followers**
4. The settings will be updated automatically.

## Is my ResearchGate profile visible to search engines?

When you sign up to ResearchGate your public page is automatically enabled, so most of your profile information will be visible to search engines. To manage your public page:

1. Go to your [Privacy Settings](#) and scroll to the section **Your public profile**
2. Choose whether you want to enable or disable your public page
3. You can also choose whether your profile photo and questions and answers are displayed on your public page
4. Your changes will be saved automatically.

## My profile isn't appearing in search engines

ResearchGate pages are automatically visible in search engines. However, due to the speed that search engines manage and index changes to web pages, it can sometimes take a while for public ResearchGate profiles to appear in search results.

## My profile is still appearing in search engines

Once a publication, profile or profile image has been removed from ResearchGate, it is our policy that its old URL redirects to our main publications page or researcher index. It can often take a few weeks for public profiles to disappear from search engines due to the speed they manage and index changes to web pages.

## Who can see my contact details?

Only your mutual followers (researchers who are following you and you're following back) can see your personal contact details, including address and phone numbers.

## How can I block someone on ResearchGate?

To block a researcher from interacting with you on ResearchGate, follow these simple steps:

1. Go to the profile of the researcher you want to block
2. Click on their **Experience** tab
3. Scroll down to the bottom right and click **Block researcher**.

Blocking a researcher means they'll be removed from your list of followers and won't be able to message you or see updates about you. Blocking works both ways, so your contact with them will be limited in the same way.

## Email address security

It is our policy to never share email addresses used on our site with external parties. The only way this could have happened through ResearchGate is if you made your email address publicly available on your profile, e.g. in your **About** section, or if it features on a full-text which has been made public. We use email addresses associated with your account only to send you ResearchGate-related emails.

## How do I log out of ResearchGate?

You can log out of ResearchGate in two simple steps:

1. Click on the arrow in the top right-hand corner of any page
2. Click **Log out**.

To log back in to your ResearchGate account, visit [researchgate.net](https://researchgate.net).

## Security Settings

ResearchGate is committed to ensuring the security of your account. We notify you of all logins to your account that look out of the ordinary. This can happen when you sign in for the first time from a new device, use your browser's private browsing function, or if someone else gained access to your account. For more information about security and privacy on ResearchGate, see [Security and privacy](#).

On the Security Settings tab of your Settings, you can review a list of all the devices which logged into your account, along with the time, date, and approximate location.

## Why am I receiving these notifications?

You will be sent an email if an attempt was made to log into your account from a device you haven't used before. Clicking on 'recently used devices' in the email takes you to your [Security Settings](#), where you can review all logins to your account.

## How do I turn on/off these notifications?

1. Go to your [Security Settings](#)
2. Check or uncheck the box under **Email Login alerts**

## How do I log out of a device?

The **Recent Devices** section of your [Security Settings](#) shows you a list of devices and browsers that have been used to log in to your ResearchGate account recently. Each entry includes the date, time, and approximate location when logging in, as well as the type of device used to access your account.

To log out of ResearchGate on another computer, phone, or tablet:

1. Go to your [Security Settings](#)
2. Find the session you want to log out from, click on it, and select **Log out**

**Note:** This will only log you out of the session on that particular device. Any sessions which are grayed out are already logged out.

## I don't recognize a login

If you ever receive a login alert from an unfamiliar browser or location, follow the instructions [here](#) to reset your password and secure your account.

**Did you find the information you were looking for?**

[Get technical help](#) OR [Give us feedback](#) OR [Report a bug](#)