

Last updated: 23 April 2020

Key Contributor Policy

By agreeing to act as a key contributor ("**Contributor**" or "**you**") for ResearchGate ("**we**", "**us**", or "**our**"), you agree to be bound by our [Terms of Service](#), [Community Guidelines](#), and this Key Contributor Policy ("**Policy**") at all times. We may update this Policy from time to time, so please check [this page](#) periodically. Any capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this Policy have the meaning given to them in our [Terms of Service](#).

ResearchGate is trialing an approach whereby specific Members are given a Contributor status, so they can help to create the best possible experience for our Users ("**Contributor Program**"). The main function of Contributors operating within the Contributor Program is to recommend or add commentary to Member Submissions available within a dedicated topic area to help surface those Member Submissions they deem to be useful or relevant. Contributors may also contribute by undertaking other similar tasks related to this endeavor.

As a Contributor, you acknowledge and agree that:

Eligibility and role

- To be eligible to act as a Contributor, you must, at all times, have a valid and active ResearchGate account.
- You represent and warrant that you meet the current eligibility criteria for becoming a Contributor, that the information in your ResearchGate profile is up-to-date and accurate, and that any other information or representations you have made about your personal information, background, experience and qualifications are true. You will let us know if something changes so that you no longer meet the eligibility criteria.
- You understand that your participation in the Contributor Program is of a temporary nature. You can stop volunteering and thereby cancel your Contributor status at any time.
- You are free to choose the amount of time that you contribute to the Contributor Program, and how to structure that time. That said, for you to retain your Contributor status, there is a hope that you will actively contribute to the Contributor Program on a regular basis, to ensure the Contributor Program achieves its objectives.
- Your contribution to ResearchGate and your participation as a Contributor are entirely voluntary and will not be compensated or rewarded in any way.
- We will identify you publicly as a Contributor, for example within the topic space you are contributing to and/or on your ResearchGate profile.
- You are not an employee, agent, independent contractor or representative of ResearchGate and must not, at any time, represent yourself as such. You have no authority to bind or speak for ResearchGate in any manner.

Privacy and confidentiality

- We will only use information you provide us in relation to your role as a Contributor for the purposes for which it was given.
- Our [Privacy Policy](#) applies to you while you are acting in your role as Contributor.
- Even though you won't be granted with any insights, rights, or access to more personal information than a Member could otherwise obtain, we want to stress that, in accordance with our [Terms of Service](#), you must not process any personal information of any other User for any purpose other than the natural purpose of such data being published within the Service by the respective User.
- You may, in the course of acting as a Contributor, become aware of confidential information, including but not limited to non-public information about our software, technology, product, features, or specifications.

You will not disclose such information without our prior written consent. This confidentiality obligation survives any termination of your participation as a Contributor, your ResearchGate account, or the Contributor Program.

General

- You understand that your actions and contributions as a Contributor will be visible to all Users of the Service. You are solely responsible for your actions and contributions as a Contributor, including for any content that you add to the Service. We don't review or approve content that you post. We are not, in any way, responsible or liable for your actions or contributions as a Contributor, including for any errors, omissions, or for any loss or damage arising from your actions or contributions. Allowing you to be a Contributor doesn't mean that we endorse you, or approve of or share your views.
- You are responsible for complying with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, and all ResearchGate policies, including this Policy. You will not contribute to the Contributor Program in a manner that violates such laws, rules and regulations, or any ResearchGate policies, or in a manner that is deceptive, unethical, false, or misleading.
- You are not expected or authorized to assess whether any Member Submissions may violate our [Terms of Service](#), [Community Guidelines](#) or other policies. If you identify content that you think may violate any of our policies, you may report it to our Community Support team to review.
- We expect you to be objective and constructive in your actions and contributions as a Contributor. Your decisions shall not be influenced by the origins of Member Submissions, or by the nationality, religious or political beliefs, gender or other characteristics of the contributing Members. You must not receive payment or other compensation from a third party for taking a particular action or expressing particular views.
- We reserve the right to revoke your Contributor status and associated privileges at any time and for any or no reason, without advance notice. Abuse or other violative behavior may result in termination of your Contributor status and/or termination of your ResearchGate account.
- We reserve the right to make changes to or discontinue the project you're contributing to and/or any aspect of the Contributor Program, including terminating the entire Contributor Program, at any time. This means, for example, that we may change the criteria for being eligible to act as a Contributor.