Creating a ResearchGate online profile

ResearchGate is a social networking tool which allows for the creation of an online research e-profile. The e-profile provides a persistent digital location to create and maintain a research profile that allows for your research publications to be linked to your profile to enhance your e-visibility.

Step 1, Go to ResearchGate at [http://www.researchgate.net](http://www.researchgate.net)

Step 2, Click on Sign Up link to access the webpage with the online registration form to create a new ResearchGate account with an e-profile. Complete the form with your details as instructed. The first prompt is to establish what type of researcher you are - see below?
Indicate your Institution and Department.

Complete the form as indicated. Please note using your institutional email (Unisa network or myLife email). Create your own password of choice.
Step 3, the ResearchGate e-profile will display to your ResearchGate Home webpage. There are 4 tabs – Home, Projects, Questions and Jobs. Each section will include a webpage with specific information related to you as researcher.

The Project tab will display projects on ResearchGate that might be of interest to you, including title and description of project and researcher affiliated with project. The project tab also gives you the opportunity to add a project you are busy with. You can also follow projects and ResearchGate will alert you to new information or items uploaded to the particular project.
The Q & A tab will display questions and answers in ResearchGate that might be of interest to you, including questions you might help with your research and questions you might be able to answer. You can select questions and answers in your filed, follow questions and questions you have asked.

The Jobs tab will display all jobs listed on ResearchGate that might be of interest to you and be related to your subject discipline / research field.
Step 4, the ResearchGate features allow you to manipulate information on your ResearchGate account and profile.

The features include searching facilities, notifications, messages, requests and viewing your ResearchGate profile.

**Searching:** The search functionality allows you to search for specific researchers or research on ResearchGate.

**Notifications:** You can view your ResearchGate notifications. As new items related to your ResearchGate profile will be listed as a notification. This would include new stats for you as researchers, researchers following you or a publication you have uploaded or your updates, etc.

**Messages:** You can send and read messages to and from other researchers in ResearchGate.
Requests: view the requests sent to you by other researchers on ResearchGate

Step 5, add or edit information on your ResearchGate. The profile allows for creation of an electronic profile with identifiable unique information about the researcher with their research publications. Additional features on the profile include the following options: overview, projects, questions and jobs.

Overview: The link to the ResearchGate profile allows you to view your ResearchGate profile in overview page. It will list your profile picture, name, ResearchGate Score, your qualifications, job title and research Institution affiliation.

Projects: Existing publications uploaded onto ResearchGate can be linked to specific projects.
Stats summary: A summary of your ResearchGate stats can be viewed in an instant with the option to view more details. The research items are listed per type e.g. articles, conference papers and other. The total reads for the items listed in your ResearchGate account and the total number of citations for the publications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Items</th>
<th>Reads</th>
<th>Citations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>32</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3 Articles 2 Conference Papers 3 Other

6 of your publications don't have full-texts yet. Add them to your profile to create visibility for more of your work and boost your stats totals.

The ResearchGate profile allows for specific functionality via each profile tab: Let’s look at each of the six tabs: Contributions, Timeline, Info, Stats and Scores

Contributions: The Contributions tab lists all the research items overview is discussed above
**Timeline:** The Timeline tab lists all the research activity for your ResearchGate profile.

**Info:** The Info tab lists all your related research information.
Stats: The Stats tab lists all your related research statistics which includes reads, citations and profile views. The statistics also include top reads and from which country the researchers are, which a paying attention to your research.
Scores: The Scores tab lists all your related ResearchGate Score information.

![Profile settings](image)

**Step 6**, updating or editing your ResearchGate profile and account via settings.
This option allows for the editing of the following: Account settings, Privacy settings, security settings, and notification settings, connect with services, invitation settings and sent invitations.

Step 6, becoming familiar with ResearchGate notifications. ResearchGate will send a notification via email, pre-determined by you as researcher, of the specific pre-determined activity on your ResearchGate profile or account.

Notification of article uploads on ResearchGate via email alerts:

A notification is sent when a researcher on ResearchGate which you are following publishes an article / research item and uploads it onto ResearchGate. You have the option of viewing the article or requesting the full-text of the article from the researcher.

Notification of new projects on ResearchGate via email alerts:

A notification is sent when a researcher on ResearchGate which you are following registers a new project or uploads an article to an existing project on ResearchGate. You have the option of viewing the project.
A notification is sent when a researcher on ResearchGate which you have cited registers a new project or uploads an article to an existing project on ResearchGate. You have the option of viewing the project.

To view the

Notification of activity statistics on ResearchGate via email alerts:

A notification is sent when a research on ResearchGate has been giving attention to your research on ResearchGate where they have either visited your profile, read a publication you have authored and indicated the frequency of activity e.g. 2 reads in the last week.

A notification is sent via email when a researcher on ResearchGate has read a publication you have authored and indicates the researcher’s identity.
This indicates the interest and or attention other researchers are giving to your research uploaded onto ResearchGate. The reads and views can be described as altmetrics (alternative metrics to citations) which signals your societal impact and gauge of your impact on your discipline before citations.

Please contact me at ladriaan@unisa.ac.za, if you have any problems creating your ResearchGate e-profile.