

InAcademia - Online Student Validation

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### What is InAcademia?



- InAcademia is a service, based on eduGAIN, used to enable commercial and non-commercial Service Providers (Merchants) to verify the educational status of their customers
- It is a lightweight, easy to use system which is safe and secure







# Why do we need InAcademia?



- At present if a Merchant wants to offer services to academia they need to register as a Service Provider in their national Identity Federation
  - Depending on the Federation there may need to be Merchant to Institution agreements as well.
  - If they wish to offer international services then they may need to register with multiple Identity federations
- This is a non-trivial task and requires substantial investment from both the Merchant and the Identity Federation
- InAcademia reduces this effort and leverages the existing work in eduGAIN to maximise coverage and minimise cost.
- This allows smaller merchants to take part





#### How does it work?



 InAcademia acts like a traditional Service Provider to eduGAIN

#### **BUT**

- It only provides a simple "Yes/No" response to a question "Is this person a student/Academic/Staff Member"
- It sits between the IdP of the customer and the website of the merchant protecting the student data and simplifying the connectivity for the merchant





#### InAcademia for Merchants



• InAcademia allows merchants to offer educational discounts without the need to manually check photo IDs or assume an academic email address is valid

 It offers a real-time, accurate, up-to-date identity check, making offering online discounts/special offers much easier and more attractive

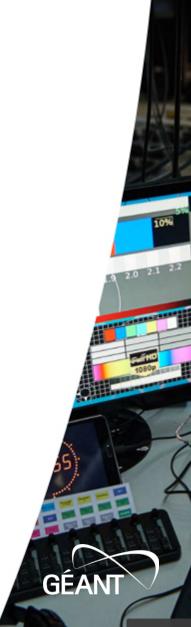




#### InAcademia for Institutions



- InAcademia allows Institutions to offer online discounts to their users without having to manage the custom interconnection of IdP to merchant system
  - Avoids the needs to connect SPs to individual IdPs
  - Massively reduces workload
- Makes it much more attractive for merchants to work with institutions





#### InAcademia for Students



 InAcademia makes getting discounts or special offers much easier and much more secure

• InAcademia is safe and privacy protecting. It only passes a simple Yes/No answer to the merchant.

• Uses the Institutions recognisable sign-in screens to increase confidence





# InAcademia Current Status - Pilot



- InAcademia pilot is happening
- currently signing up the first Merchants and NRENs
  - Amazon
  - DeiC, SURFnet, JISC
- Pilot will involve real Merchants and real authentications







# InAcademia Plans



- Aim is currently one NREN per month for AWS then accelerating
- Focusing on large Merchants first
  - No "active" recruitment (yet) but if you find opportunities

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# InAcademia.org







# Thank you

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Users: Arts and



Users: Earth Observation



users: Energy



Users: Health and Medicine



Users: Space



Users: **Physics** 



User Groups



Cloud Services



Strategy and Vision



Schedule



TFs and SIGs



Latin America region



Storage



Trust & Identity and Security



Real-Time Communications



**CAREN** region



**EUMED** region



AC2 region



**GÉANT Logo** 



GÉANT People



GÉANT Services



Location



Professional Services



Research Programmes



Asia Pacific region



**GÉANT** Community



Connectivity and Network



Efficiency



**EU Logo** 



**Events** 



Finance



**GÉANT** Network



Eapconnect region



Compass





Glue



Vision



Strategy & Vision



Campus



Service cogs 1



Design



Vision



Service cogs 2



Pilot



Journal/Library



North America



Production



Developer



Legal



NREN