



Ubiquitous Wi-Fi Access for Local and Visiting Students, Researchers, and Faculty: eduroam in our Communities

What is eduroam?

eduroam (education roaming) is the secure, global, Wi-Fi roaming service developed for the international research and education community, available in more than 100 countries and 17,000 locations worldwide.

eduroam allows seamless Wi-Fi connectivity for students, researchers, and staff from participating higher-ed institutions – whether they are on their campus or visiting other participating institutions and sites.

eduroam is available in

+ 100 **17,000**
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Who operates eduroam?

In Canada, the eduroam service is managed and operated by CANARIE, a member of the global eduroam Wi-Fi federation. The eduroam federation consists of an operating organization in each member country that authenticates and authorizes access on behalf of that country's post-secondary institutions. CANARIE currently supports between 17 and 36 million eduroam logins per month.

The eduroam network is broadcast where students and researchers gather, learn, and study, including university and college campuses, libraries, research hospitals, museums, and sports arenas. In many parts of the world, eduroam is also broadcast on public transit and at coffee shops and airports.

In Canada, the City of Mississauga was the first Canadian municipality to roll out the service throughout its public spaces, including parks, transit stations, and city facilities. Recently, the Edmonton Public Library became the first public institution in Alberta to offer eduroam, broadcasting the network at its 21 library locations.

What are the benefits of eduroam?

- **For students, research, and staff of educational and research institutions,** eduroam provides seamless connectivity on a trusted wireless network at hundreds of participating sites around the world. If they can access their home institution's eduroam network, they can access the global eduroam network.
- **For communities and other hosts,** eduroam helps create a virtual campus where local and visiting students and researchers can continue their research and studies anytime, anywhere. And because the eduroam network is only accessible to students and researchers with valid credentials from their home institutions, the security risks of open Wi-Fi networks are mitigated.
- **For IT departments of educational and research institutions,** eduroam minimizes the operational impact of managing users visiting their networks and eliminates the need for creating temporary user accounts. Visitors from institutions that participate in eduroam can securely and seamlessly connect and benefit from Wi-Fi access once they arrive on campus.



The eduroam opportunity for communities

- Uses existing Wi-Fi infrastructure, making eduroam deployment a simple process
- Serves a significant population in our community: full- and part-time students and faculty at all colleges, universities, and research facilities (e.g. research hospitals)
- Strengthens the eduroam host's brand as an innovator to visitors from across Canada and around the world
- Promotes the eduroam host as a leading innovator for rolling out secure, seamless Wi-Fi access to students and researchers
- Highlights the eduroam host as a "hub for students & researchers" and improves the attractiveness of the institutions in the area among prospective students
- Elevates the eduroam host's standing as a Canadian tech hub
- Strengthens the appeal of public transit, particularly for university and college students commuting between their schools and research/tech parks for co-op and internship terms
- Improves the security posture of public Wi-Fi access across the community by reducing reliance on open, un-secure networks

Case Studies of eduroam in our communities:

- *The Edmonton Public Library becomes the first public institution in Alberta to offer eduroam* – CANARIE Case Study
<https://bit.ly/3oBdQtm>
- *The City of Mississauga Leverages eduroam to Build a City-Wide "Virtual Campus"* – CANARIE Case Study
<https://bit.ly/2JqVxGs>
- *Mississauga is the First Canadian City to Launch "Virtual Campus"* – City of Mississauga Press Release
<https://bit.ly/2Wch4nS>
- *Mississauga's "Virtual Campus" Wins Excellence in Municipal Systems Award* – City of Mississauga Press Release
<https://bit.ly/2HyyNmp>
- *New eduroam service turns Mississauga into a "virtual campus"* – University of Toronto Press Release
<https://bit.ly/2YaiaM8>

How does eduroam work?

When a user tries to log on to the wireless network of an eduroam-enabled site, CANARIE sends the user's log-on request to his or her home institution, which verifies the user's credentials and sends the result to the visited site. If this authentication is successful, the user is granted access to the eduroam Wi-Fi network.

What's the cost of offering eduroam in your community?

There are no participation fees for hosts to offer eduroam to roaming users – in fact, you will likely be able to leverage the Wi-Fi infrastructure you already have in place.



Who is CANARIE?

CANARIE is Cybera's federal partner in Canada's National Research and Education Network (NREN). Just as Cybera connects Alberta's universities, colleges, research facilities, innovation hubs, and boards of education to each other and to the NREN, CANARIE connects Cybera to its provincial and territorial counterparts and to the Global Research and Education Network.

About CANARIE

CANARIE connects Canadians to each other and to the world. Our programs equip Canadian researchers, students, and startups to excel on the global stage.

Together with our thirteen provincial and territorial partners, we form Canada's National Research and Education Network (NREN). This ultra-high-speed network connects Canada's researchers, educators, and innovators to each other and to global data, technology, and colleagues.

Beyond the network, we fund and promote the development of software for research and national efforts to manage data generated from research. To strengthen the security of Canada's research and education sector, we collaborate with our partners in the NREN, government, academia, and the private sector to fund, implement, and support cybersecurity initiatives. We also provide identity management services to the academic community and boost Canada's startups with cloud resources and expertise in emerging technologies.

Established in 1993, we are a non-profit corporation, with most of our funding provided by the Government of Canada.

For more information, please visit: www.canarie.ca

How do we participate in eduroam?



To learn more about how your community can participate in eduroam, please contact us at caf@canarie.ca