Today research and education are increasingly global, with international collaborations working in every field of research. Academics and students are highly mobile with teams joining together around the globe. Research and Education are no longer limited to the classroom or the lab – researchers and students expect to be able to get online and work wherever and whenever they need to. How do institutions and Research and Education networks support this highly mobile and demanding audience?

The need to provide visitors with secure access to the local Wi-Fi service can cause huge administrative headaches. Resources must be allocated either to providing and supporting temporary accounts on a person-by-person basis (which can be extremely time-consuming and expensive on a large campus), or public guest accounts must be used. Even if these are changed daily, these guest accounts can cause audit issues, as many simultaneous users sharing the same account make it difficult to track any inappropriate web use.

This is why eduroam was developed - to provide simple, easy-to-use WiFi roaming services to academia. One personal account wherever you are. No need to use shared guest accounts or log in using insecure web front ends. eduroam was designed to meet the needs of academic users worldwide.

What does it cost?

Thanks to global agreements, the eduroam Wi-Fi roaming service is free-of-charge to users and the savings from both management of visitor access and reduction in data roaming costs for travelling staff can be substantial. For institutions who do not run suitable RADIUS technology to support eduroam the GÉANT Managed IdP service can be used by NRENs to help implement eduroam access.
What are the benefits of eduroam to users, NRENs and institutions?

For institutions, eduroam provides a single solution that accommodates all the mobile connectivity requirements of a campus, supporting:

- local users connecting to the local network – seamlessly moving around the campus and to halls of residence or distributed facilities
- visitors connecting to the local network – removing the need for insecure guest accounts
- local users connecting to other participating networks around the world.

For NRENs, eduroam provides a substantial value-add for their institutional clients. It provides not only national but also international Wi-Fi roaming services in one solution and the proven technology is highly scalable for any size of NREN.

For users, whether they’re moving across campus or spending time studying or working at another research and education institution, eduroam gives them seamless internet connectivity.

More than 10,000 eduroam hotspots are available at universities, research centres, academies, many schools, and other research and education institutions in more than 89 territories around the world. As eduroam grows, more and more hotspots are appearing in additional places such as libraries, museums and public spaces such as railway stations and coffee shops.

eduroam is highly valued by millions of users around the world and providing eduroam generates real value to the student and researcher community. For example, offering eduroam in student halls of residence provides a secure, scalable and easy-to-use Wi-Fi service to students and a seamless user experience across all devices.

Because visiting students, staff and researchers use their eduroam ‘home’ credentials to access Wi-Fi services on campus, they have a quick, easy and secure way to get online without campus IT support, so the IT team can focus on managing essential services for everyone. The secure login system means that passwords are kept private at all times.

With eduroam, campuses become a more attractive venue for meetings and conferences, as it allows participants to access the network without assistance, and without tying up your facilities.