

RateYourPI Privacy Policy

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1. Introduction

RateYourPI ("we," "us," or "our") operates the website rateyourpi.com (the "Platform"), a worldwide review platform for academic researchers. We are committed to protecting the privacy of our users globally. This Privacy Policy explains how we collect, use, disclose, and safeguard your information when you use our Platform, regardless of where you are located.

By using the Platform, you agree to the collection and use of information in accordance with this policy. If you do not agree, please do not use the Platform.

2. Our Approach to Privacy

RateYourPI is designed with reviewer privacy as a core principle. While we cannot guarantee absolute anonymity in every circumstance — no platform can — we implement strong technical and procedural safeguards to ensure your identity is never linked to your published review. We describe our approach as "privacy by design," not as a guarantee of absolute anonymity.

3. Information We Collect

3.1 Information You Provide

- Academic institutional email address (used solely for one-time verification, never stored in association with your published review)
- ORCID identifier (used solely for verification of academic affiliation)
- Academic profile link (ResearchGate, Google Scholar, or LinkedIn — used solely for manual verification)
- Review content, ratings, and any text you voluntarily submit
- Communications you send to us via email

3.2 Information Collected Automatically

- IP address (collected temporarily for abuse prevention only, not stored long-term or linked to reviews)

- Browser type and version
- Pages visited and time spent on the Platform
- Cookie data (see Section 6 for full details)

3.3 Information We Do NOT Collect

- We do not collect your real name, personal address, or government ID
- We do not store your verification credentials in a way that is linked to your published reviews
- We do not build personal profiles that identify you
- We do not collect sensitive personal data such as racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, or health data

4. How We Use Your Information

We use the information we collect to:

- Verify that you hold a valid academic affiliation
- Prevent spam, fake reviews, and platform abuse
- Moderate review content for compliance with our Terms of Service
- Improve and maintain the Platform
- Respond to your inquiries
- Comply with legal obligations across applicable jurisdictions
- Generate anonymized, aggregated analytics for research and institutional reporting purposes

5. Reviewer Privacy Protection

Protecting reviewer privacy is the core mission of RateYourPI. We implement the following measures:

- Your verification credentials are used only for one-time verification and are not stored in association with your published review
- We do not display any personally identifying information alongside reviews
- We do not sell, share, or disclose reviewer identities to third parties, including the subjects of reviews
- Reviews represent the personal opinions and experiences of individual users, not verified facts

- In the event of a valid legal order compelling disclosure of user information, we will notify affected users to the extent permitted by applicable law before complying

Important: While we implement strong privacy protections, we cannot guarantee absolute anonymity in all circumstances, including where required by valid legal process.

6. Global Privacy Rights

6.1 European Union and EEA Users — GDPR

If you are located in the European Union or European Economic Area, you have the following rights under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR):

- Right to access the personal data we hold about you
- Right to correction of inaccurate or incomplete data
- Right to erasure of your personal data
- Right to restriction of processing
- Right to data portability
- Right to object to processing
- Right to withdraw consent at any time

To exercise any of these rights, contact us at support@rateyourpi.com. We will respond within 30 days.

6.2 United Kingdom Users — UK GDPR

Users in the United Kingdom have equivalent rights under UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. You may also contact the UK Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to lodge a complaint.

6.3 Other International Users

We respect the privacy rights of users worldwide. Regardless of your location, you may contact us at any time to request access to, correction of, or deletion of your personal data.

7. Cookies and Tracking

7.1 Types of Cookies We Use

- Essential cookies: Required for the Platform to function
- Analytics cookies: Used to understand how users interact with the Platform (anonymized)

7.2 Cookie Consent

When you first visit the Platform, you will be presented with a cookie consent banner. You may accept or decline non-essential cookies.

7.3 What We Do Not Use

- We do not use advertising cookies
- We do not use third-party tracking pixels
- We do not share cookie data with advertisers

8. Data Sharing and Disclosure

We do not sell your personal data. We may share information only in the following circumstances:

- With service providers who assist in operating the Platform under strict confidentiality agreements
- When required by applicable law, court order, or governmental authority in any jurisdiction
- To protect the rights, property, or safety of RateYourPI, our users, or the public
- In connection with a merger, acquisition, or sale of assets, with prior notice to users

9. Aggregated and Anonymized Data

We may use aggregated, anonymized data derived from reviews for research, reporting, and commercial purposes including institutional analytics and benchmarking reports. This data cannot be used to identify any individual user or reviewer.

10. International Data Transfers

Our Platform is operated from the United States. If you are accessing the Platform from the EU, UK, or other regions with data protection laws, your data may be transferred to

and processed in the United States. We ensure such transfers comply with applicable data protection laws.

11. Data Retention

We retain verification data only as long as necessary to prevent abuse. Review content is retained indefinitely unless removed by our moderation team or pursuant to a valid legal request or user deletion request.

12. Data Security

We implement industry-standard security measures including encryption in transit (SSL/TLS), secure database storage, and access controls. However, no method of transmission over the internet is completely secure. We cannot guarantee absolute security.

13. Children's Privacy

The Platform is not directed at individuals under the age of 18. We do not knowingly collect personal information from minors.

14. Changes to This Policy

We may update this Privacy Policy from time to time. We will notify users of material changes by posting the new policy on this page with an updated effective date.

15. Contact and Data Protection Inquiries

For any questions, concerns, or requests regarding this Privacy Policy or your personal data, please contact us at: support@rateyourpi.com