

# RateYourPI Terms of Service

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## 1. Acceptance of Terms

Welcome to RateYourPI. By accessing or using our website at rateyourpi.com (the "Platform"), you agree to be bound by these Terms of Service ("Terms"). These Terms constitute a legally binding agreement between you and RateYourPI, a Delaware limited liability company. The Platform is available worldwide and these Terms apply to all users regardless of location.

## 2. Eligibility

You must be at least 18 years of age to use the Platform. By using the Platform, you represent and warrant that you meet this age requirement and that your use of the Platform does not violate any applicable laws in your jurisdiction.

## 3. Description of Service

RateYourPI provides a worldwide review platform where verified academic community members — including PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, research assistants, and graduate students — may submit ratings and reviews of academic principal investigators (PIs), supervisors, and research labs. The Platform is intended to promote transparency and help researchers make informed decisions about academic environments globally.

## 4. Important Disclaimers

### 4.1 Opinions Not Facts

ALL REVIEWS AND RATINGS PUBLISHED ON THE PLATFORM REPRESENT THE PERSONAL OPINIONS AND EXPERIENCES OF INDIVIDUAL USERS ONLY. RATEYOURPI DOES NOT VERIFY THE ACCURACY OF ANY REVIEW AND MAKES NO REPRESENTATION THAT ANY REVIEW IS FACTUALLY ACCURATE. REVIEWS SHOULD NOT BE TREATED AS STATEMENTS OF FACT. This disclaimer is displayed prominently on every PI profile page.

## 4.2 Privacy Protection Limitations

While RateYourPI implements strong privacy protections and does not link reviewer identities to published reviews, we cannot guarantee absolute anonymity in all circumstances. In particular, we may be required to disclose user information pursuant to valid legal process. We will notify affected users to the extent permitted by law before complying with any such disclosure.

## 5. User Accounts and Verification

- You must verify your academic affiliation through one of our approved verification methods to submit a review
- Approved methods: institutional email verification, ORCID account verification, or academic profile link submission
- You are responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of any credentials associated with your account
- You may not create accounts on behalf of others or use another person's credentials
- We reserve the right to suspend or terminate accounts that violate these Terms

## 6. User Content and Reviews

### 6.1 Your Responsibilities

You are solely responsible for all content you submit. By submitting a review, you represent and warrant that:

- The review reflects your genuine, first-hand experience
- The content represents your honest personal opinion
- You have the right to submit the content
- The content does not violate any applicable law or third-party rights

### 6.2 Prohibited Content

You may not submit content that:

- Is false, fabricated, or submitted with intent to deceive
- Contains defamatory, harassing, threatening, or abusive statements
- Discloses private personal information about any individual
- Contains hate speech or content targeting protected characteristics
- Violates any applicable law or regulation in any jurisdiction

- Is submitted by or on behalf of the subject of the review
- Is submitted in exchange for any form of compensation
- Violates the privacy rights of individuals under GDPR, UK GDPR, or any other applicable privacy law

### **6.3 Content License**

By submitting content, you grant RateYourPI a worldwide, non-exclusive, royalty-free, perpetual license to use, display, reproduce, modify, and distribute your content in connection with operating and improving the Platform, including for aggregated analytics and institutional reporting purposes.

## **7. Disclaimer of Liability for User Content**

RateYourPI does not verify the accuracy of user-submitted reviews and is not responsible for the content posted by users. RateYourPI operates as a platform provider and not as a publisher or author of user content. To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, RateYourPI shall not be liable for any claims arising from user-submitted content.

## **8. Global Legal Compliance**

### **8.1 European Union and UK Users**

Users in the EU and UK acknowledge that the Platform complies with GDPR and UK GDPR requirements as detailed in our Privacy Policy. EU and UK users retain all rights afforded under applicable data protection law.

### **8.2 General International Compliance**

Users are responsible for ensuring their use of the Platform complies with all laws applicable in their own jurisdiction.

## **9. Moderation and Content Removal**

RateYourPI reserves the right to review, moderate, edit, or remove any content at our sole discretion, at any time and without notice. To report content you believe violates these Terms, please contact us at [support@rateyourpi.com](mailto:support@rateyourpi.com).

## **10. Intellectual Property**

All content created by RateYourPI — including design, layout, graphics, software, and aggregated data — is the exclusive property of RateYourPI and is protected by applicable intellectual property laws worldwide.

## **11. Disclaimer of Warranties**

THE PLATFORM IS PROVIDED ON AN "AS IS" AND "AS AVAILABLE" BASIS WITHOUT WARRANTIES OF ANY KIND. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, RATEYOURPI DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES, INCLUDING IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.

## **12. Limitation of Liability**

TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, RATEYOURPI SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF YOUR USE OF THE PLATFORM. OUR TOTAL LIABILITY TO YOU FOR ANY CLAIM SHALL NOT EXCEED \$100.

## **13. Indemnification**

You agree to indemnify and hold harmless RateYourPI and its officers, directors, employees, and agents from and against any claims, liabilities, damages, losses, and expenses arising out of your use of the Platform, your submitted content, or your violation of these Terms or any applicable law.

## **14. Governing Law and Dispute Resolution**

These Terms shall be governed by the laws of the State of Delaware, United States. Any dispute shall be resolved exclusively in the state or federal courts located in Delaware. Nothing in this clause limits the rights of EU or UK consumers under mandatory local consumer protection laws.

## **15. Changes to These Terms**

We reserve the right to modify these Terms at any time. We will notify users of material changes by posting updated Terms with a new effective date. For significant changes affecting EU or UK users, we will provide at least 30 days advance notice.

## **16. Termination**

We reserve the right to suspend or terminate your access to the Platform at any time, with or without cause and without notice.

## **17. Entire Agreement**

These Terms, together with our Privacy Policy, constitute the entire agreement between you and RateYourPI regarding your use of the Platform.

## **18. Contact Information**

For any questions regarding these Terms, content removal requests, or legal inquiries: [support@rateyourpi.com](mailto:support@rateyourpi.com)