

MICROSOFT ENTRA

QUICK WINS for education



What is Microsoft Entra?

Microsoft Entra (formerly Azure Active Directory) is Microsoft's cloud-based Identity and Access Management (IAM) service — and for schools, universities, and research institutes, it is often the foundation of secure digital learning.



For education, it enables:

- Unified student and staff access → one login across Microsoft 365, learning management systems (LMS), SaaS, and research platforms.
- Flexible authentication → MFA, passwordless, and device-based authentication that works for students, teachers, and faculty on any device.
- Smarter access control → Conditional Access rules that adapt to BYOD, shared labs, and off-campus logins.
- Governance and accountability → lifecycle management for students, staff, alumni, and guest researchers, with audit trails for GDPR compliance.

Why it matters for education:

- Student and researcher data are prime targets for cyberattacks.
- High turnover (graduations, alumni, visiting faculty) makes identity lifecycle management essential.
- BYOD and open networks increase exposure to phishing and credential theft.
- GDPR and national education regulations demand strong identity protections.

In short - Microsoft Entra is the gatekeeper for your digital campus.

Get it right, and you enable secure, seamless learning and research
Get it wrong, and personal data, research IP, and trust are all at risk.

The good news? You can discover the weak spots yourself. Keep on reading...

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We identified a few different levels in implementation difficulty, level 1 are quick wins you can tackle yourself, from level 2 and beyond we suggest contacting a professional...

Level 1: Quick wins you can check today

MFA Baseline

- Where to look: Entra → Security → Authentication methods → Policies
- What to check: Are all users (staff, students, and researchers) covered by MFA?
- Action: Still see “per user MFA”? → Replace with centralized policies.

Conditional Access Basics

- Where to look: Entra → Security → Conditional Access → Policies
- What to check: Do you enforce:
 - Block legacy authentication?
 - Require MFA for risky sign-ins?
 - Baseline admin-role protections?
- Action: Update to address high-risk student logins (off-campus, unmanaged devices).

Guest & research collaborator Access Review

- Where to look: Entra → Users → External users
- What to check: Dormant accounts for guest lecturers or research partners?
- Action: Disable or review with academic sponsors.

Privileged Role Assignments

- Where to look: Entra → Roles & administrators
- What to check: Are admins permanently assigned, or using PIM (Privileged Identity Management)?
- Action: Use PIM for IT staff managing critical systems

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Level 2 & beyond: Where you'll need expert help

If you spotted gaps above, you're not alone. EU governments need to go further by:

- Implement phishing-resistant authentication for sensitive data and research environments.
- Apply risk-based Conditional Access tuned for BYOD and shared devices.
- Automate student lifecycle management (admission → active → alumni).
- Govern guest researcher and cross-institution collaboration securely.
- Integrate with national research federations (SURF, eduGAIN, etc.).
- Align with GDPR and national education privacy requirements.



These aren't "checklist fixes", they require careful design, governance, and integration with education IT ecosystems.

ACEN helps **schools and universities** move from "we enabled MFA" to a fully governed, risk-based Microsoft Entra posture.

We secure access without slowing down your business. Make an appointment today for a one-on-one conversation and some free advice you can use immediately.

Sit down with our experts for a focused walkthrough of Entra.

In a 30-minute, one-on-one session, we will show you a current real-life setup, show key Entra capabilities and discuss quick wins for security and compliance.

[Book a demo now](#)

→ www.acen.eu/en/microsoft-entra-demo

