

What is Gather?

Gather is a virtual networking platform that the European Association for Cancer Research (EACR) is using for social sessions within their virtual conference programmes. By walking around virtual rooms you will be able to browse posters, meet fellow participants, interact with speakers and EACR staff through in-built video chat.



“The experience of being in the poster hall as an avatar was great, I really loved it! It is amazing what is technically possible”

“All in one, the best e-poster experience I've ever had since the pandemic happened”

Participant feedback at recent EACR virtual poster sessions in Gather

Try it out before the conference

If you would like to try *Gather* before joining an EACR-organised event, you can enter a [conference demo on the Gather website](#). Please note this *Gather* hall is not organised by EACR, and the EACR does not hold any responsibility for the content in this room.

How will I access Gather?

Shortly before the conference you will be sent a URL link by email. *Gather* is accessed using your internet browser, and it is recommended you use Google Chrome or Firefox, updated to the most recent version available.

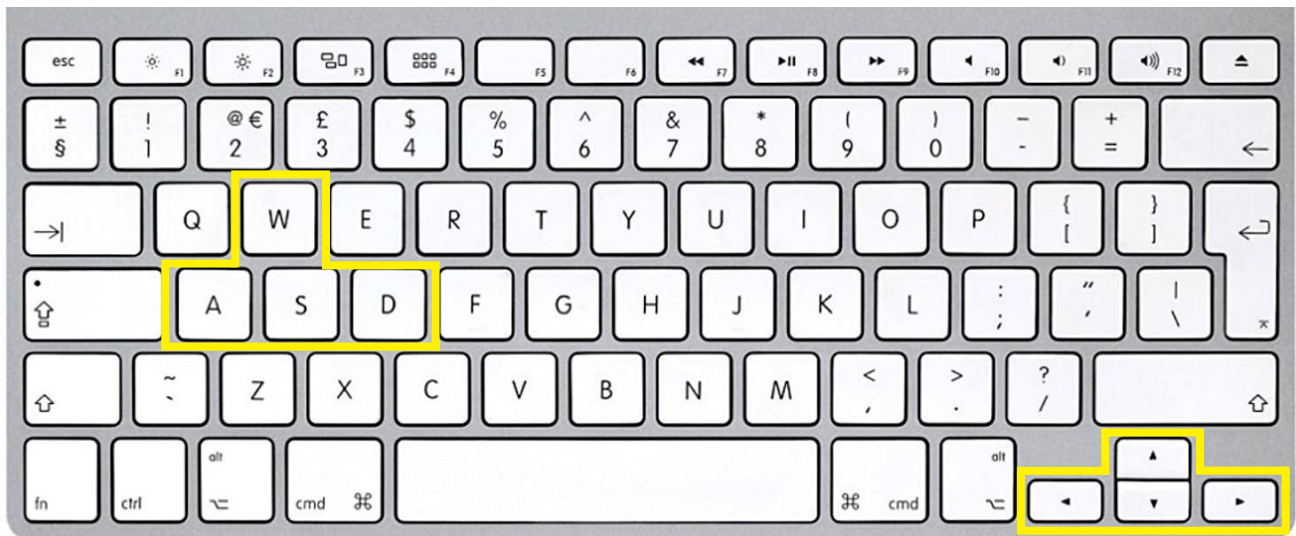
Please note: the EACR Gather space will only become available for participants at the advertised time – attempting to access the hall outside of these times may result in an error message. You will be able to access the virtual hall approximately 30 minutes prior to the session.

Video and audio access

When using *Gather* for the first time, you may be asked to give permission for *Gather* (or your browser) to access your webcam and microphone. In order for *Gather* to work effectively, please accept these permissions. Note your camera/microphone may not work if they are in use in another open program, such as Microsoft Teams or Zoom. The latest information on providing access to your webcam and microphone can be found on the *Gather* website: support.gather.town/help/av-troubleshooting

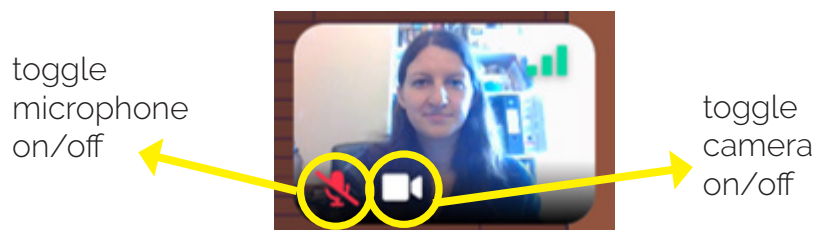
Basic Controls

Your avatar can be moved using your keyboard arrow keys, or WASD keys on a QWERTY keyboard. More help on getting started can be found here: support.gather.town/help/movement-and-basics



When first entering a *Gather* space, you will be asked to enter your name and grant access to your webcam and microphone. Please enter the full name you used to register for the conference.

Throughout the session, you are able to toggle on/off your camera and microphone using the icons in the bottom right corner.



We recommend using headphones for a better audio experience.

Additional support in setting up your camera and microphone is available on the *Gather* website: support.gather.town/help/av-troubleshooting

Ghost mode

If you get blocked by other participants and can't move, you are able to activate 'ghost mode' by pressing and holding down 'G' on your keyboard whilst also navigating by using the arrow keys. This will also allow you to walk through people.

Interact with participants

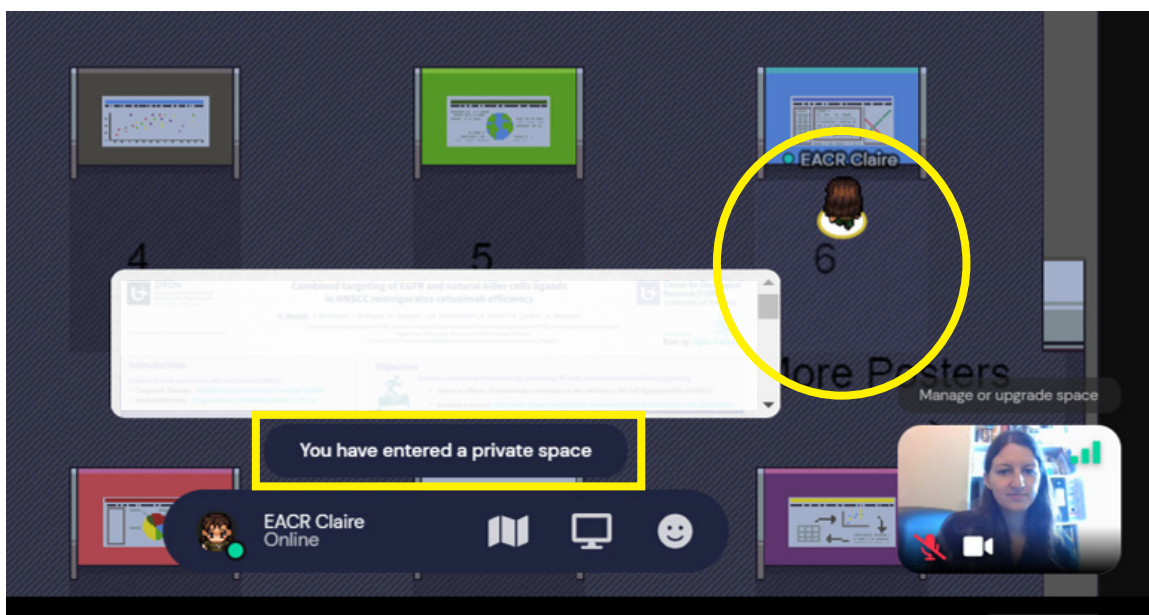
We believe one of the main highlights of *Gather* is the ability to chat with nearby participants in a similar way to in-person conferences. *Gather* allows you to do this in two ways: nearby proximity and private spaces.

Nearby proximity

Stand near other avatars and you will automatically be connected to them. All of your videos will appear and you will be able to see and hear each other, provided your camera and microphones are turned on.

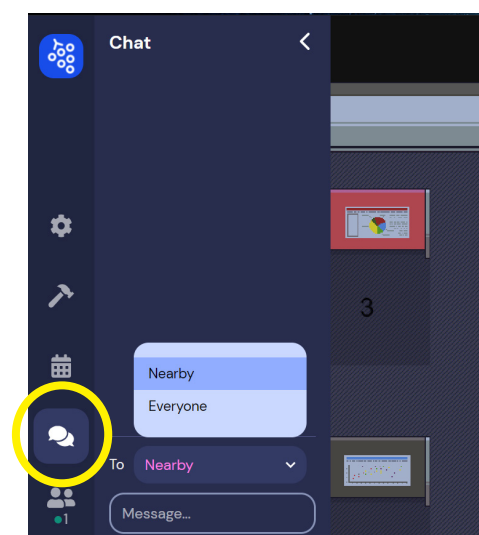
Private spaces

Throughout the virtual rooms you will notice areas designated as "private spaces". These areas are marked with a different floor colouring and a pop-up message will appear when you walk into that area. You will be able to chat with other users also located in that space but you won't hear anyone else outside the marked area.



Private messaging

You are able to message other users using the written chat function, which can be found on the left panel of your screen. You can choose to message everyone, people who are in your nearby proximity or private space, or a specific individual.

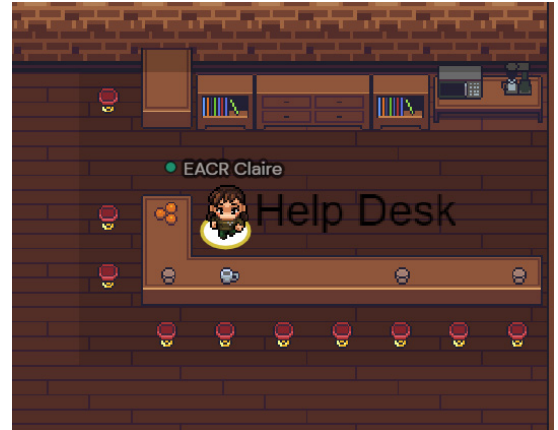


Announcements & Troubleshooting

EACR Ambassadors, Staff and Announcements

You will be able to identify EACR Ambassadors and staff using the “AMB” or “EACR” prefix on an avatar's name (for example, AMB Maria, EACR Adam). You can also ask EACR questions at the Help Desk, which is staffed throughout the scheduled sessions. Feel free to come and say hello – we are a friendly group! You can also message EACR staff directly using the chat function.

Announcements may occasionally be made throughout an event, in which case a member of EACR staff will appear on your screen regardless of where you are in the room.



Troubleshooting

If you are experiencing difficulties with your audio or video, we recommend you consult the *Gather* troubleshooting guide: support.gather.town/help/troubleshooting-and-faq

For all other queries, please contact the EACR staff member who sent you this guide.

Your data

The European Association for Cancer Research does not collect any data from the *Gather* platform and we do not transfer any participant details to *Gather*.

Usage is subject to *Gather's* privacy policy: gather.town/privacy-policy