

# Yoosk API and SSO technical paper (v1.3)

The Yoosk API provides functionality to enable a client to perform the following tasks:

- List public figures
- Search public figures
- Authenticate
- Post a question
- List questions for a public figure
- List questions for a user
- List popular, recent and fastest climbing questions
- Rate a public figure
- Vote on an answer
- Follow a question
- Get a public figure ratings table

To use the API, partners must gain a partner ID from the Yoosk site at [www.yoosk.com/partnerkey](http://www.yoosk.com/partnerkey) which acts as their API key. This key is then passed as a parameter to calls to the API. Should you wish to integrate your user authentication with Yoosk such that users can single sign on access then this key is also used in generating unique, secure authentication between your user base and Yoosk.

## Sending requests to the API

The base URI for the Yoosk API is <https://api.yoosk.com/v1/> The primary request format for the API is:

[https://api.yoosk.com/v1/\[request\]?api\\_key=\[api\\_key\]&partner\\_id=1&parameterlist](https://api.yoosk.com/v1/[request]?api_key=[api_key]&partner_id=1&parameterlist)

Where [request] is the local path to the required resource (eg. /publicfigures/Gordon%20Brown/), and [api\_key] is the user's valid API key.

The API uses a RESTful approach, using the following HTTP methods to access resources:

- **GET** - This is the equivalent of a **read** operation
- **POST** - This is the equivalent of a **create** operation
- **PUT** - This is the equivalent of an **update** operation
- **DELETE** - This is a **delete** operation

You can also use HTTP POST by passing the POST verb a method parameter in the API request that is set to the HTTP method of choice (GET, PUT, or DELETE), eg:

A **PUT** request to [https://api.yoosk.com/v1/user/username/?api\\_key=\[api\\_key\]](https://api.yoosk.com/v1/user/username/?api_key=[api_key])

is the same as A **POST** request to

[https://api.yoosk.com/v1/user/username/?api\\_key=\[api\\_key\]&method=put](https://api.yoosk.com/v1/user/username/?api_key=[api_key]&method=put)

### POST format

When making POST requests, input is expected as a JSON object containing the appropriate keys, with the Content-Type header set to application/json. An example HTTP request is displayed as follows:

```
POST /api.svc/feedback/?api_key=Ci29p3Kte7nFuGQJ9BPKY2Xs32I9deSJ HTTP/1.1
```

Content-Type: application/json

```
{
  "publicfigure_id": 2,
  "honest": true,
  "clear": true,
  "wellinformed": true,
  "inspiring": true,
  "consistent": true,
  "wellintentioned": false
}
```

### Responses Format

The default response format is JSON (<http://www.json.org/>).

All resources return standard HTTP header information. This header information indicates:

- Response status code
- URIs of any newly created resources

The same information is also returned in the response body, since not all clients can access this header

information. All responses (successful or not) for all GET, POST, PUT, and DELETE methods, include a status response type in the response body with the same response format.

The response format includes the following elements:

- **response** - An element containing response information
- **status\_code** - A standard HTTP status code indicating success or failure (as part of the response element).
- **message** - A string providing details on the request processing error. (Optional) (as part of the response element)
- **resources\_created** - List of resource links for all resources created as a result of a request. (Optional) (as part of the response element)
- **result** - An element containing an array of results for the given query for responses returning 200 Found status messages.
- **resultsize** - An element containing the number of results in the returned result array, if a result element exists.
- **totalresultsize** - A numeric value indicating the total number of results available, if a result element exists.
- **resultstart** - A numeric value indicating the index of the first element returned in the result out of the total results available, if a result element exists.

### HTTP Response Codes

#### 200 FOUND

The API must return a 200 FOUND if:

- The resource has been found (for GET requests)

- The resource has been updated (for PUT requests)
- The resource has been deleted (for DELETE requests)

#### **201 CREATED**

The API must return a 201 CREATED if:

- The resource has been created (for POST/PUT requests only) and is available on the site immediately

#### **202 ACCEPTED**

The API must return a 202 ACCEPTED if:

- The resource has been created (for POST/PUT requests only) but will not appear on the website or be accessible via the API until it has been moderated.

#### **304 NOT MODIFIED**

The API must return 304 NOT MODIFIED if:

- The user has attempted to create a resource which already exists

#### **400 BAD REQUEST**

The API must return 400 BAD REQUEST under any one or more of the following conditions:

- Invalid request URI
- Invalid HTTP Header
- Receiving an unsupported parameter
- Receiving a value for a parameter which fails validation
- Receiving an invalid HTTP Message Body

#### **401 UNAUTHORIZED**

- If the user has not included an API key as a URL parameter on their request.
- If the user is attempting to perform an operation upon a resource for which they do not have the correct permission (eg. attempting to update the user details of a different user)

#### **403 FORBIDDEN**

- The user is attempting to access a method on a resource which has not been created
- The user is authenticated, but is attempting a PUT/POST/DELETE method on a resource to which they do not have permission

#### **404 NOT FOUND**

- The server has not found a resource that matches the request URI.

#### **405 METHOD NOT ALLOWED**

- The method specified in the Request-Line is not allowed for the resource identified by the Request-URI. The response MUST include an Allow header containing a list of valid methods for the requested resource.

#### **500 INTERNAL SERVER ERROR**

- If there are errors in creating/updated/deleting a resource which are not covered by any of the other given status codes

Data Types

#### **Text/Strings**

Strings should be returned as UTF-8 encoded characters contained within double-quotes, eg:

"title": "Text Value"

#### **Dates**

Dates should be specified as strings containing a date value formatted using IETF standard (RFC 1123 Section

5.2.14) date syntax eg:

`"created_at": "Fri, 25 Dec 2009 13:30:00 GMT"`

#### Links

Where other entities are referenced (such as entity creators), they should be referenced as strings containing

fully-resolved URLs to the API call for that entity, but not containing query string values such as method or

api\_key, e.g.:

`"creator": "https://api.yoosk.com/v1/user/username"`

## Method Detail

The following section details each resource and the expected/available parameters from all methods which are accessible.

[test/echo/](#)

[GET »](#)

#### Parameters

##### Parameter Values expected Notes

echo **optional** String A string to return as the body of the response

#### Response

A result containing the echo parameter.

[test/auth/](#)

[GET »](#)

#### Response

A result containing the name of the current authorised user if a user has authorised.

[users/](#)

[GET »](#)

#### Parameters

##### Parameter

##### Values

##### expected

##### Notes

search **optional** String A username to search for resultsize **optional** Number If a different number of results is required. Defaults to 20. Maximum of 100. resultstart **optional** Number The 0-indexed offset in the possible resultset to start to return as the result element of the response

#### Response

A result containing a list of users. If the search parameter has been specified, the result set is limited to

only users whose username matches that value.

[POST »](#)

#### Parameters

##### Parameter Values expected Notes

username String The user's required username

email String The email address

password String The required password  
country **optional** String Must be a valid country name as per the yoosk country table  
gender **optional** String A valid gender (male/female)  
city **optional** String  
postcode **optional** String  
birthday **optional** Date  
**Response**

[users/\[username\]/](#)  
**GET »**

#### **Response**

Details on the specified user. When displaying user names via the API, the user's email address should only be displayed if their email\_flag is set to true (otherwise do not include the email element).

**PUT »**

Updates the specified user using supplied details. Users must be authorised to use this method.

#### **Parameters**

##### **Parameter Values expected Notes**

password optional String If this field is supplied, update the user's password to the one supplied  
country **optional** String Must be a valid country name as per the yoosk country table  
gender **optional** String A valid gender (male/female)  
city **optional** String  
postcode **optional** String  
birthday **optional** Date  
interests optional String  
music optional String  
books optional String  
films optional String  
tvs optional String  
heros optional String  
other optional String  
show\_email optional Boolean true or false. Sets the 'email\_flag' field in the database

[users/\[username\]/@questions](#)

**GET »**

#### **Parameters**

##### **Parameter**

##### **Values**

##### **expected**

##### **Notes**

date\_start **optional** Date If specified, no questions that were posted before this date should be posted

date\_end **optional** Date If specified, no questions that were posted on or after this date should be posted

publicfigure\_id **optional**

Number

The ID of a public figure to limit the questions to

topic\_id **optional**

Number

The ID of a topic to limit the questions to

resultsize **optional**

Number

If a different number of results is required. Defaults to 20. Maximum of 100.

resultstart **optional**

Number

The 0-indexed offset in the possible resultset to start to return as the result element of the response

**Response**

The response should be all of the matching questions, with answers and public figures expanded.

[users/\[name\]/@friends](#)

GET »

**Parameters**

**Parameter**

**Values**

**expected**

**Notes**

resultsize **optional**

Number

If a different number of results is required. Defaults to 20. Maximum of 100.

resultstart **optional**

Number

The 0-indexed offset in the possible resultset to start to return as the result element of the

response

**Response**

A list of all users who are friends with the named user.

[users/\[name\]/avatar/](#)

GET »

**Response**

Should return the image, with correct image HTTP headers.

PUT »

Should upload the body of the request as the new avatar image.

DELETE »

Should delete the current image and replace it with the default Yoosk avatar.

[publicfigures/](#)

GET »

**Parameters**

**Parameter Values expected Notes**

Parameter Value(s) expected Notes

search\_name **optional** String An optional search parameter. If supplied, the result must contain only public figures whose name matches the value of this parameter.

search\_occupation **optional** String An optional search parameter. If supplied, the result must

contain only public figures whose occupation matches the value of this parameter.

country **optional** String If supplied, the result must contain only public figures from

the country with the specified title.

resultsize **optional** Number If a different number of results is required. Defaults to 20. Maximum of 100.

resultstart **optional** Number The 0-indexed offset in the possible resultset to start to return as the result element of the response

#### **Response**

Return a list of public figures matching the parameters.

[POST »](#)

#### **Parameters**

##### **Parameter Values expected Notes**

name String The public figure name

nickname optional String

occupation String The public figure's occupation

country optional String The public figure's country (string value matching an entry in the Yoosk country table)

#### **Response**

The response will be a 201 request indicating that the public figure has not been added to the website yet.

[publicfigures/\[name\]/](#)

[GET »](#)

#### **Response**

Details about the specified public figure, including their 3 most recent answered questions expanded, the 3 most recent questions asked to that public figure and the 3 most popular questions.

[publicfigures/@popular](#)

[GET »](#)

#### **Parameters**

##### **Parameter**

##### **Values**

##### **expected**

##### **Notes**

resultsize **optional**

Number

If a different number of results is required. Defaults to 20. Maximum of 100.

resultstart **optional**

Number

The 0-indexed offset in the possible resultset to start to return as the result element of the

response

#### **Response**

A list of public figures ordered by popularity (number of questions asked).

[publicfigures/\[name\]/@popularquestions](#)

[GET »](#)

#### **Parameters**

##### **Parameter**

##### **Values**

##### **expected**

##### **Notes**

resultsize **optional**

Number

If a different number of results is required. Defaults to 20. Maximum of 100.

resultstart **optional**

Number

The 0-indexed offset in the possible resultset to start to return as the result element of the

response

**Response**

A list of popular unanswered questions, including the public figure details expanded.

[publicfigures/\[name\]/@recentquestions](#)

GET »

**Parameters**

**Parameter**

**Values**

**expected**

**Notes**

resultsize **optional**

Number

If a different number of results is required. Defaults to 20. Maximum of 100.

resultstart **optional**

Number

The 0-indexed offset in the possible resultset to start to return as the result element of the

response

**Response**

A list of recent questions, including the answer (if answered) and public figures expanded.

[publicfigures/\[name\]/@answers](#)

GET »

**Parameters**

**Parameter**

**Values**

**expected**

**Notes**

resultsize **optional**

Number

If a different number of results is required. Defaults to 20. Maximum of 100.

resultstart **optional**

Number

The 0-indexed offset in the possible resultset to start to return as the result element of the

response

**Response**

A list of recent questions that have been answered, including the answer and public figures expanded.

[questions/](#)

GET »

## Parameters

### Parameter

#### Values

**expected**

#### Notes

search **optional** String Search query

topic\_id optional

Number

ID of the optional topic filter

publicfigure\_id optional

Number

ID of the optional publicfigure to filter questions by

user\_id optional

Number

ID of the optional user to filter questions by

date\_start optional Date If specified, do not return any questions from before this date

date\_end optional Date If specified, do not return any questions from on or after this date

resultsize **optional**

Number

If a different number of results is required. Defaults to 20. Maximum of 100.

resultstart **optional**

Number

The 0-indexed offset in the possible resultset to start to return as the result element of the response

## Response

**POST »**

### Parameters

#### Parameter

#### Values

**expected**

#### Notes

publicfigure\_id **optional**

Number

The ID of the public figure to post this question to. If this is not supplied, then the publicfigure\_name field must be supplied, and must contain the name of a public figure which has not been added to the website yet

publicfigure\_name **optional**

String

If publicfigure\_id is not supplied, this field must be supplied. This field must be the valid name of a public figure which has been added but not yet moderated/approved.

content String The question

topic String The name of a Yoosk topic

## Response

A 201 response indicating that the question has been accepted but not yet approved.

[questions/@recent](#)

**GET »**

### Parameters

#### Parameter

#### Values

**expected**

### Notes

resultsize **optional**

Number

If a different number of results is required. Defaults to 20. Maximum of 100.

resultstart **optional**

Number

The 0-indexed offset in the possible resultset to start to return as the result element of the

response

### Response

Recently asked questions (most recent first)

[questions/@popular](#)

GET »

### Parameters

#### Parameter

#### Values

**expected**

### Notes

resultsize **optional**

Number

If a different number of results is required. Defaults to 20. Maximum of 100.

resultstart **optional**

Number

The 0-indexed offset in the possible resultset to start to return as the result element of the

response

### Response

Recently asked questions (most popular by vote first)

[questions/@climbing](#)

GET »

### Parameters

#### Parameter

#### Values

**expected**

### Notes

resultsize **optional**

Number

If a different number of results is required. Defaults to 20. Maximum of 100.

resultstart **optional**

Number

The 0-indexed offset in the possible resultset to start to return as the result element of the

response

### Response

Most rapidly climbing questions

[questions/\[id\]/](#)

GET »

### Response

The user and topic should be expanded.

[questions/\[id\]/@votes](#)

GET »

**Parameters**

**Parameter**

**Values**

**expected**

**Notes**

resultsize **optional**

Number

If a different number of results is required. Defaults to 20. Maximum of 100.

resultstart **optional**

Number

The 0-indexed offset in the possible resultset to start to return as the result element of the

response

**Response**

[questions/\[id\]/@followers](#)

GET »

**Parameters**

**Parameter**

**Values**

**expected**

**Notes**

resultsize **optional**

Number

If a different number of results is required. Defaults to 20. Maximum of 100.

resultstart **optional**

Number

The 0-indexed offset in the possible resultset to start to return as the result element of the

response

**Response**

Returns a list of all users who are following this question.

[friendships/](#)

GET »

**Parameters**

**Parameter**

**Values**

**expected**

**Notes**

user\_id Number The user to return friendships for

resultsize **optional**

Number

If a different number of results is required. Defaults to 20. Maximum of 100.

resultstart **optional**

Number

The 0-indexed offset in the possible resultset to start to return as the result element of the

response

#### **Response**

A list of users with whom the specified user is friends.

**POST**

#### **Parameters**

##### **Parameter Values expected Notes**

**user\_id** **Number** The ID of the other user with whom the current user wants to create a friendship

#### **Response**

The URL of the created friendship (eg. /v1/friendships/88/)

**friendships/[id]**

**GET »**

#### **Response**

The friendship details, with the two users expanded.

**DELETE »**

Delete this friendship (only if the current user is the users that created this friendship)

**votes/**

**POST »**

#### **Parameters**

##### **Parameter**

##### **Values**

##### **expected**

##### **Notes**

**question\_id** **optional**

Number

Either **question\_id** or **answer\_id** must be specified

**answer\_id** **optional**

Number

**direction** **optional**

String

"up" for voting an answer up, "down" for voting an answer down. Defaults to "up" if not specified.

If specified as "down" and "question\_id" is set, ignore the specified direction.

**feedback/**

**GET »**

#### **Response**

List all recent feedback given on public figures.

##### **Parameter Values expected Notes**

**resultsize** **optional** **Number** If a different number of results is required. Defaults to 20. Maximum of 100.

**resultstart** **optional** **Number** The 0-indexed offset in the possible resultset to start to return as the result element of the response

**POST »**

#### **Parameters**

##### **Parameter Values expected Notes**

**publicfigure\_id** **Number** The id of the public figure to add feedback for

honest Boolean true if the user finds the public figure honest, false if not  
clear Boolean  
wellinformed Boolean  
inspiring Boolean  
consistent Boolean  
wellintentioned Boolean

[topics/](#)

[GET »](#)

#### **Response**

List all topics.

[topics/\[name\]/](#)

[GET »](#)

#### **Response**

The named topic, with the most popular and recent questions expanded (limited to 3 each)

[topics/\[name\]/@popularquestions](#)

[GET »](#)

#### **Parameters**

##### **Parameter**

##### **Values**

##### **expected**

##### **Notes**

resultsize **optional**

Number

If a different number of results is required. Defaults to 20. Maximum of 100.

resultstart **optional**

Number

The 0-indexed offset in the possible resultset to start to return as the result element of the

response

#### **Response**

The current popular questions for this topic (most popular first)

[topics/\[name\]/@recentquestions](#)

[GET »](#)

#### **Parameters**

##### **Parameter**

##### **Values**

##### **expected**

##### **Notes**

resultsize **optional**

Number

If a different number of results is required. Defaults to 20. Maximum of 100.

resultstart **optional**

Number

The 0-indexed offset in the possible resultset to start to return as the result element of the

response

## Response

The most recent questions for this topic (most recent first)

[answers/](#)

[GET »](#)

### Parameters

#### Parameter

#### Values

#### expected

#### Notes

search **optional** String Search query

topic\_id optional

Number

ID of the optional topic filter

publicfigure\_id optional

Number

ID of the optional publicfigure to filter questions by

has\_video optional

Boolean

If true, return only answers which have a video

If false, return only answers which do not have a video

If not supplied, do not take video into account when filtering

Default to not supplied

date\_start optional Date If specified, do not return any answers from before this date

date\_end optional Date If specified, do not return any answers from on or after this date

resultsize **optional**

Number

If a different number of results is required. Defaults to 20. Maximum of 100.

resultstart **optional**

Number

The 0-indexed offset in the possible resultset to start to return as the result element of the response

#### Response

A list of answers, with questions and public figures expanded.

[answers/@recentanswers/](#)

[GET »](#)

### Parameters

#### Parameter

#### Values

#### expected

#### Notes

resultsize **optional**

Number

If a different number of results is required. Defaults to 20. Maximum of 100.

resultstart **optional**

Number

The 0-indexed offset in the possible resultset to start to return as the result element of the

response

#### Response

Recent answers (latest first).

[answers/\[id\]/](#)

GET »

### Response

The answer, including the question and public figure expanded

## Yoosk Single SignOn

For partners integrated with Yoosk's single sign on, widgets can take an optional 3rd parameter. This parameter is an object with the named fields `sso_y_uhash`, `sso_y_displayname`, and `sso_y_sig`. These parameters are the same as the ones used in your SSO landing page.

SSO example

```
yoosk.widgets.createPublicFigureWidget('Gordon Brown', 1,  
  { sso_y_uhash: "dffcb9bda882dc8faf7cc5dbc10f746",  
    sso_y_displayname:"SSOTest",  
    sso_y_sig:"843f257a9b35eff7032b03bce281feb1"  
  });
```