

# Integrating Okta with InCommon: Secure access in both directions

Give your community one sign-in for campus apps and InCommon resources, and welcome InCommon users into the applications you protect with Okta.

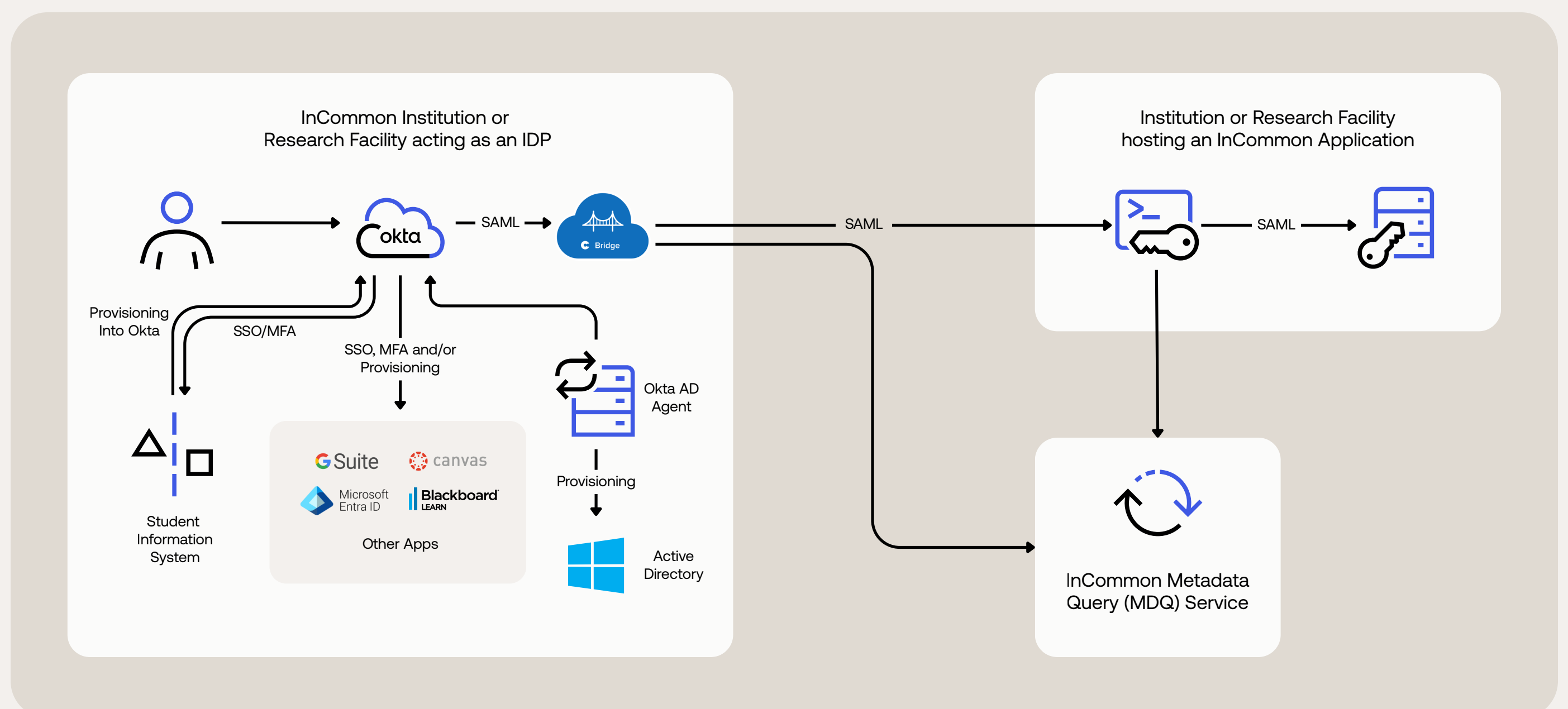
InCommon lets participating institutions trust one another through one shared framework instead of separate connections. Okta uses a dedicated connection for each partner, the standard approach among commercial identity platforms. A federation adapter, separate software that you subscribe to or host yourself, translates between the two models, so your institution can take part in InCommon with Okta as its identity platform.

## OUTBOUND ACCESS

### Okta as your campus identity provider

Okta signs in your students, faculty, and staff and enforces multi-factor authentication. The adapter then passes that trusted identity to InCommon resources like research journals and library services.

- **Access beyond campus:** Your campus gets a trusted path to third-party resources across the InCommon community.
- **One set of credentials:** Students use the same credentials for campus applications and InCommon resources.
- **Single sign-on across platforms:** One sign-in experience spans campus systems and third-party resources available through InCommon.
- **InCommon apps on the Okta dashboard:** You can place direct links to the InCommon applications your community uses most on the Okta dashboard.

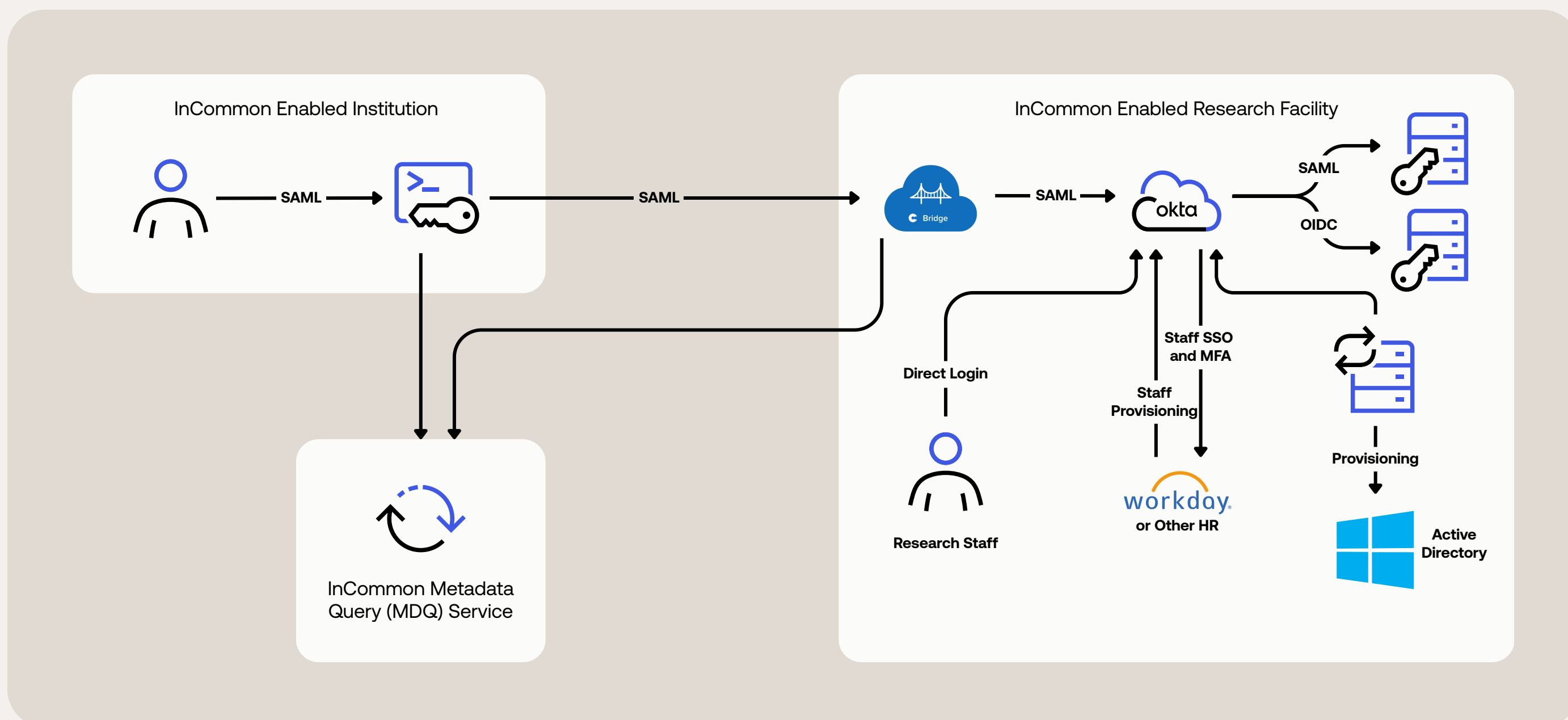


## INBOUND ACCESS

### Okta protecting the applications you host

Researchers and collaborators from other InCommon institutions sign in with the credentials they already have, so your institution doesn't need to issue them new ones.

- **Built for research collaboration:** Researchers across the InCommon community reach the applications you choose to share.
- **InCommon sign-in to Okta:** A proxy directs visitors to sign in at their home institution, validates the institution's response, and passes the sign-in to Okta, which grants access to the application.
- **Consistent protection for every user:** Your applications stay connected to Okta, whether users sign in directly or arrive through InCommon.
- **A clear sign-in path for everyone:** Staff sign in directly with Okta, and visitors select their home institution, so each user is guided to the right login.



### Connecting Okta to InCommon doesn't have to be complex

Both patterns use a federation adapter, and the research and education community has two widely accepted options. Cirrus Identity provides the Bridge and Proxy shown in the diagrams as fully managed services, so there's no infrastructure for your team to run. Shibboleth is open-source software your team hosts and maintains. Either way, Okta remains your identity platform for campus sign-in and application security.



Read the announcement and full architecture guide on the Okta blog.

<https://www.okta.com/blog/industry-insights/okta-incommon-adapter-architecture/>