

Research Security Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What is research security?

Research Security is the collective system of controls— practices, policies, actions— that safeguards the research enterprise against threats to national and economic security, foreign interference, and intellectual property theft.

2. Why is research security important?

Research Security is important because it protects the value, integrity, and growth of scientific discovery and innovation. If research is stolen, manipulated, or misused, it can pose direct risks to our national security, intellectual property, and technological advancement.

3. What are the elements of a Research Security Program (RSP)?

A Research Security Program (RSP) must include four elements: Cybersecurity, Foreign Travel Security, Research Security Training, and Export Control Training.

4. What are some examples of research security risks?

Research security risks can take many forms, ranging from cyberattacks to insider threats to foreign influence. Here are some examples of research security risks:

- Undisclosed Foreign Relationships / Foreign Travel
- Espionage and Intellectual Property Theft
- Foreign Influence and Interference
- Export Control Violations
- Cyberattacks and Data Breaches
- Foreign Talent Programs

5. What are the main regulations around research security?

[National Security Presidential Memorandum 33 \(NSPM-33\)](#): Requires all federal research funding agencies to strengthen protections of U.S. Government-supported Research and Development (R&D) from foreign influence and intellectual property theft. In addition, it requires the establishment of Research Security Programs (RSP) at research institutions receiving more than \$50 million per year in federal research funding.

[CHIPS and Science Act of 2022](#): Requires researchers receiving federal awards to complete annual research security training and prohibits participation in malign foreign talent recruitment programs.

6. Where can I access UTSW Research Security Training Modules?

To ensure research security at UTSW, it is important that investigators understand the rapidly changing landscape for international activities and security risks. In this regard, UTSW has developed research security training that is available to you through Taleo Learn. **If training has not yet been assigned to you in Taleo**, you can still access it manually by following the steps below:

1. Go to <http://utsouthwestern.edu/taleolearn>
2. Log in using your UTSW credentials
3. In the search bar on the lower left side of the landing page, type: “Research Security”
4. You will see the four Research Security Training Modules appear
5. Select each module to begin the training

7. What is a foreign country of concern?

A foreign country of concern (FCOC) is a nation that has been identified as posing a risk to U.S. national and research security due to malicious or strategic efforts to access sensitive technology, data, or intellectual property. As defined by the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022, FCOC includes the People’s Republic of China, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, or any other country determined to be a country of concern by the Department of State.

In addition, the Texas Executive Order GA-48 includes as “foreign adversaries” the Republic of Cuba and Venezuelan politician Nicolas Maduro.

8. Can I collaborate with a researcher from a foreign country of concern?

Yes. However, institutions and researchers receiving federal funding are required to disclose relationships with entities in these countries and sometimes restrict collaborations altogether, especially in high-tech or defense-adjacent fields.

9. What is a foreign government talent recruitment program?

A foreign government talent recruitment program (FGTRP) is a program organized, managed, or funded by a foreign government or institution to recruit science and technology professionals or students in diverse fields. Many of these programs provide incentives in the form of grants and fellowships to encourage individuals to relocate physically to the foreign country as a means of attracting talent for the benefit of the foreign government’s economic and/or military growth. Some programs fall into the category of a **Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program (MFTRP)**. Participation in MFTRPs is prohibited by federal funding agencies and UT Southwestern institutional policy (EMP-158). For additional information, please refer to the [Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs Tip Sheet](#).

10. Will foreign collaborations negatively affect my research funding?

No, foreign collaborations won't automatically hurt your research funding, but they can raise red flags if not disclosed properly, or if they involve certain high-risk countries, entities, or programs.

11. What information must be disclosed to research sponsors?

Federal research sponsors (e.g., NIH, NSF, DoD, DOE, etc.) require senior/key personnel to disclose all foreign and domestic sources of current and pending support as well as certain research activities, collaborations and appointments (including participation in foreign talent recruitment programs), and financial interests.

12. What happens if I don't disclose all of my collaborations and sources of support?

Foreign collaborations and support must be transparent, properly disclosed, and compliant with U.S. research security policies. Failure to disclose all collaborations and support can have significant consequences and may jeopardize opportunities for future federal funding, lead to loss of funding, suspension or debarment, criminal charges, and institutional reputational damage.

13. Where do I need to disclose financial interests and outside activities?

Covered Individuals must complete and submit a new Statement of Financial Interests every year before March 1st through the COI-Info Portal, and throughout the year within 30 days of any changes. The Statement of Financial Interests must be completed by either disclosing all your personal outside activities and financial interests or, if you do not have any, indicating that you have nothing to disclose.

For additional information, visit the [Conflict of Interest](#) office or contact the COI office at ConflictofInterest@UTSouthwestern.edu.

14. What are export controls?

Export controls are a set of laws and regulations that govern the transfer or release of certain goods, technologies, and information from the U.S. to persons or entities in foreign countries or to non-U.S. persons, even if located in the U.S. For additional information, visit the [Export Control](#) web page (VPN required) or contact the export control office at Export@UTSouthwestern.edu.

15. What is Executive Order GA-48 relating to the hardening of state government?

Executive Order GA-48, issued by Governor Greg Abbott on November 19, 2024, aims to "harden" state government operations in Texas by safeguarding critical infrastructure, intellectual property, and personal information from foreign adversaries. The Executive Order places limitations on state agencies

regarding travel to “foreign adversary” countries as defined by federal law, including China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, and Venezuela. In addition, it also prohibits UT Southwestern personnel from accepting any gift, regardless of value, from an entity associated with a foreign adversary country. For additional information, please visit the [International Travel](#) web page (VPN required) or contact the Travel Oversight Committee at traveloversightcommittee@utsouthwestern.edu.

16. How can I reach the Research Security Office?

The Research Security office may be reached at ResearchSecurity@UTSouthwestern.edu or visit the [Research Security](#) web page (VPN required) for further information.