

Progress on UCalgary Research Security Project Objectives – 2022/23 report

Total Research Security award: \$1,169,711

Project name	Objective(s)	Allocated amount	Progress
<p>Activation of Research Security Best Practices in UCalgary’s Research Ecosystem</p>	<p>U Calgary is building a robust Research Security Division within its Research Services Office and is investing in associated programs and infrastructure to support outreach and education, due diligence and compliance activities.</p>	<p>\$1,169,711</p>	<p>In December 2022, the University of Calgary hired its first Director of Research Security. From there, the Research Security Division (RSD) team has grown to include three managers, two analysts and administrative support, with plans to expand in the future. In addition, the Division supports salaries for relevant positions in other business units (legal, IT, Comms, VPR etc).</p> <p>As part of the Division’s creation, an institutional research security plan was developed and is now being operationalized.</p> <p>Awareness has been a key piece of the RSD mission since it was established. Through Outreach and Education, RSD is introducing the concept of research security and the requirements that go with it to the University of Calgary community through presentations, briefings, training, and workshops.</p> <p>The Due Diligence and Compliance teams have been set up to help researchers and university employees navigate the new and changing national security requirements emanating from both the federal and provincial governments. The Due Diligence team assists researchers with completing risk assessment forms by vetting proposed partners through open-source intelligence, advising on potential risks, and assisting with risk mitigation plans.</p> <p>If a research proposal is successful, the Compliance and Special Investigations team assists the researcher with the implementation of their risk mitigation plan and ensures that the requirements are met and maintained throughout the duration of the grant. Reviews will be reported annually to the</p>

			<p>University's Senior Leadership Team and funding agencies.</p> <p>The RSD team provides travel security briefings, assists with and invests in IT's travel loaner device program, increases data storage capacity, provides research security briefings, and works collaboratively with teams across the university, including Cybersecurity, IT, Risk Management, Legal, Environmental, Health &amp; Safety, Supply Chain Management, and Campus Security. The RSD liaises with other academic institutions to ensure best practices and with outside partners, including CSIS, the RCMP, CBSA and the Province of Alberta. We are working to help with training and due diligence for smaller institutions or those that do not get funding.</p> <p>The Research Security team has a dedicated email inbox to triage all requests and has service standards to ensure all questions are answered in a timely manner and one on one meetings with faculty are set up to mitigate risk and protect data, IP and institutions research enterprise. The program is agile and while processes charts have been developed they can evolve with new requirements.</p> <p>The goal of the RSD is to help grow the university's research portfolio, while at the same time protecting the leading-edge research being conducted and ensuring the reputation and integrity of the university and its researchers is maintained.</p>
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<p><b>Due Diligence Team</b></p>	<p><b>Providing Guidance and Mitigating Risks</b></p>		<p>A critical component of research security at the UCalgary is timely and thorough analysis of potential partnerships and agreements with external parties. A Due Diligence Team was hired (a manager and 2 analysts) in Spring 2023. Training modules and several paid open source intelligence (OSINT) tools were evaluated and purchased to enhance the capacity of the Due Diligence Team in order to build OSINT capacity at UCalgary and ensure the adoption of best practices. Processes, guides, and templates were created from scratch to ensure consistent and thorough analysis of potential partners—OSINT standards and processes, report templates, etc. Through outreach activities, awareness of the services of the Due Diligence Team has increased exponentially, and requests for analysis of potential partners are being received from units across campus. The Due Diligence Team has established guides and processes for the creation of risk mitigation plans and provides individualized assistance to members of the UCalgary community in creating such plans. In addition, funds have been used to seek legal review and advice as needed.</p> <p>Between January and June 2023, Research Security vetted 287 entities for risk and assisted PIs with completion of 26 Risk Assessment Forms.</p>
<p><b>Outreach and Education-</b></p>	<p>Raising Awareness and providing training in research security</p>		<p>A manager was hired and communication specialists, a website was developed, and a training and development plan is being implemented. Various one-pagers were created and distributed to faculty and administration.</p> <p>Various engagements have taken place, from a Research Security Blitz on campus to Town Halls for specific faculties. UCalgary was also featured in the CSIS quarterly report on the importance of collaboration when affecting change across the University.</p> <p>Research security workshops were offered to various members of the research community, from undergraduate students to postdoctoral scholars and faculty members.</p>

			<p>A Research Security conference is being organized in collaboration with the University of Alberta on the UCalgary campus in October 2023.</p> <p>In total, 40 various events were held from February to June with over 1,025 participants. This means that an average of 205 faculty members were engaged in various outreach activities per month.</p>
<p><b>Compliance and Special Investigations</b></p>	<p>Developing a robust compliance program and making improvements to loaner program, purchasing new data storage and working to focus on physical security changes.</p>		<p>A manager was hired and worked extensively with various business units across the University. One area of focus was international travel. Working closely with IT, Cyber Security, Risk Management and a business analyst, significant improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of the University of Calgary's travel loaner device program were made. This included a streamlined process, purchasing of new equipment, and the creation of reference documents. In effort to further build awareness of travel security and the benefits of the loaner program, the team began offering travel security briefings to UCalgary researchers and employees travelling internationally outlining potential risks and mitigation strategies to help protect research and the university. Taking this one step further, the team also began providing guidance on how to better secure campus visits by outside delegations to further mitigate any potential security risks.</p>