

Progress on UCalgary Research Security Project Objectives – 2023/24 report

Total Research Security award: \$1,224,312

Project name	Objective(s)	Allocated amount	Progress
<p>Activation of Research Security Best Practices in UCalgary’s Research Ecosystem</p>	<p>Build up capacity and awareness at UCalgary so that research can be conducted in a safe and secure environment</p>	<p>\$1,224,312</p>	<p>Outreach and Education is key to raising awareness of safeguarding research and adoption of best practices amongst faculty and staff. Fifty training sessions were held with a total of 2,006 attendees.</p> <p>Research Security, IT and Legal planned for the rollout of required training. This laid the ground for UCalgary to implement mandatory research security, cybersecurity and privacy training in the next reporting period.</p> <p>The University of Calgary and the University of Alberta jointly hosted the <i>2023 Research Security Conference: Mitigating Risk in a Changing World</i> from 26-27 October 2023. The conference was attended by 275 representatives from 54 post-secondary institutions, 12 Government of Canada departments and agencies, 3 provincial or territorial governments, and 26 other civil society and research organizations. In person workshops with representatives from the U15 and Canada’s smaller and mid-sized universities were held prior to the conference to identify common challenges and opportunities for collaboration. The workshops were the impetus for the establishment of an <i>Alberta Research Security Community of Practice</i>, which is now active and chaired by UCalgary.</p> <p>The Research Security Division launched an awareness campaign to inform the UCalgary community of the Government of Canada’s new policy on sensitive technology research and affiliations of concern (STRAC). In-person presentations on STRAC and other services offered by Research Security were given to 14 faculties to inform researchers of the new requirements. Four additional virtual STRAC information</p>

		<p>sessions were held for the UCalgary community to learn about the new requirements.</p> <p>The University of Calgary and the University of Alberta collaborated to provide due diligence and risk assessment training for Alberta Postsecondary Institutions (PSI's). The training consisted of detailed briefings, presentations of case studies, reviews of recent scholarship, and participant discussions. In-person training was held in both Calgary and Edmonton to maximize participation from Alberta PSIs.</p> <p>Together with the UCalgary Information Technology Division, Research Security hosted an <i>Open House</i> to introduce faculty and staff to the research security team. There were 130 attendees who gained an introduction to research security and a familiarity with the services we provide, including: partner vetting, assistance with grant application forms, travel briefings, and compliance with sanctions and export controls when conducting research.</p> <p>UCalgary's publicly facing research security website received 2,948 visits. The website has been continuously updated and new guidance documents added.</p> <p>The team collaborated with Calgary's IT department and the Calgary Airport Authority (YYC) to bring Eduroam wi-fi services to YYC. Eduroam provides secure, encrypted and authenticated wi-fi services to connect students, researchers, faculty and staff to their peers, colleagues and partners at post-secondary institutions all over the world. As of October 2023, these services are now available at YYC to ensure researcher's data remains secure while accessing wi-fi at the airport.</p>
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<p>Due Diligence and OSINT Tools</p>	<p>Support researchers in forming partnerships and collaborations while mitigating potential risks.</p>	<p>The Due Diligence team is the first point of contact with Research Security for much of the UCalgary community. It supports researchers by providing customized guidance on navigating new and evolving RS requirements and vetting potential partners and collaborators. In this period, the team hired one new Safeguarding Analyst to help take on additional initiatives and meet growing demand for RS guidance and vetting across the UCalgary community.</p> <p>In the reporting period, the Due Diligence team vetted and produced reports on 494 entities. The team frequently meets with members of the UCalgary community to present vetting results, explain potential risks, and discuss mitigation plans—64% of Due Diligence entity reports were accompanied by a consultation.</p> <p>The Due Diligence team continued to increase the breadth and depth of its OSINT expertise. Members of the team helped procure and became proficient in two new paid OSINT tools. They participated in various training sessions including on foreign language search techniques, and attended an OSINT conference in October 2023. The team updated its guide to OSINT tools and shared it with numerous Canadian PSIs.</p> <p>The Due Diligence team provides one on one guidance and feedback to PIs completing risk assessment forms. In the reporting period, 36 risk assessment forms were completed. The team created a comprehensive guide to completing risk assessment forms, incorporating new policy guidance and feedback from the Tri-Council Agencies.</p> <p>The Due Diligence team provides support to TRIUMF. In the reporting period, UCalgary vetted 43 entities for TRIUMF, and met with TRIUMF representatives to provide an overview of each report and, when relevant, discuss potential mitigation plans.</p>
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<p>Compliance &amp; Special Investigations</p>	<p>Development and implementation of a compliance framework for research security requirements, including grants, sanctions, export controls and international travel.</p>	<p>The Compliance &amp; Special Investigations team hired two new analysts to assist with a growing portfolio. The team continues to work with grant recipients to implement their risk mitigation plans under the NSGRP and establish annual reporting requirements for the duration of the grant. Risk mitigation plans require that researchers and their teams complete training in Research Security and Cybersecurity, resulting in 51 individuals completing the courses. The team developed a review process for the Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern, which includes a detailed guidebook for UCalgary researchers.</p> <p>The team worked with stakeholders across UCalgary to develop a framework for sanctions and export controls compliance with partner units. This included creating a process for reviewing all transactions involving sanctioned countries for vendors, contracts, and admissions using OSINT to generate entity reports. A review of all existing vendors used by UCalgary was completed and the team now vets all new vendors and contracts originating from sanctioned countries to ensure compliance.</p> <p>The Compliance team continues to provide tailored travel security briefings and country specific risk assessments to UCalgary travelers. The team led over 20 travel briefings. The team also worked with Risk Management to implement a sanctions review requirement for all UCalgary travel to countries subject to Canadian sanctions. The team worked with IT to develop new guidance documents for the loaner device program and assisted over 30 users of the program.</p> <p>The Compliance team began laying the foundation for a program to enhance lab security at UCalgary. To develop a baseline understanding of lab security measures already in place and inform the development of the program, the team visited labs across campus. The team also assumed responsibility for the administration of the federal Contract Security Program,</p>
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