

Progress on UCalgary Research Security Project Objectives – 2024/25 report

Total Research Security award: \$1,257,955

Project name	Objective(s)	Allocated amount	Progress
Activation of Research Security Best Practices in UCalgary's Research Ecosystem	UCalgary is building a robust Research Security Division (RSD) within its Research Services Office and is investing in programs and infrastructure to support outreach and education, due diligence and compliance activities. The RSD coordinates and reports on the 5 vectors of Research Security: Intellectual Property, Partnerships, Cyber Security, People and Physical Security. The RSD provides guidance, identifies and mitigates risks and acts as a resource to help faculty and the research enterprise navigate new and evolving requirements from government and international regulations on research security.	\$1,257,955	The Outreach and Education team has organized information sessions, workshops, and training opportunities tailored to researchers from various disciplines, including workshops for early career researchers to introduce the concept of research security and basic steps that they can take to safeguard their work. Our <i>Lunch-N-Learn</i> series offered sessions engaging researchers and staff in a variety of research security topics such as new grant funding requirements, career benefits of safeguarding research, the global security landscape, travel security considerations, and safeguarding sensitive dual use research. Working alongside the University of Alberta, UCalgary created the Alberta Research Security Community of Practice (CoP) to help safeguard Alberta's research ecosystem. The CoP is an effort amongst 20 Alberta post-secondary institutions to collectively adopt best practices in research security by organizing training for Alberta universities and colleges, developing shared resources and tools for researchers, and building capacity amongst research security professionals. A two-day workshop was organized in Edmonton for 115 attendees from across Alberta. Outreach and Education engaged the broader Canadian and international research community by participating in conferences and forums such as the Canadian Association of Research Administrators, the Transatlantic Science Conference, the Field Law Conference, Digital Science/Times Higher Education, and the Canada-UK Research Security Workshop. The Due Diligence Team continued to expand its activities. As new research security requirements have been introduced (e.g. STRAC) and awareness of the research security office has grown, Due Diligence has seen a significant increase in demand for its partner

		vetting services. Due Diligence has also introduced mandatory reviews of some categories of partners. In 2024-25, the Due Diligence Team produced open-source intelligence (OSINT) reports on 852 entities. Approximately 36% of these reports were accompanied by a consultation meeting where a PI or other member of the university community was briefed on the findings and mitigations were discussed. The Due Diligence Team reviews and provides guidance on risk mitigation plans related to grant applications. In 2024-25, the team provided tailored guidance and approved 52 risk assessment forms. Mid-way through the reporting period, Due Diligence implemented mandatory review of all UCalgary Mitacs applications, which includes offering tailored guidance on mitigations for each application. Support is also provided to UCalgary led Horizon Europe applications. UCalgary expanded its OSINT expertise during this time. Members of both the Due Diligence and Compliance teams completed external training on OSINT as well as participating in internally organized sessions where team members shared new techniques and approaches with one another. UCalgary provided OSINT training to both TRIUMF and a group of Ontario universities and colleges. OSINT resources were produced for both internal and external audiences, for example an updated guide to OSINT tools, and guidance on foreign language searches and dual use technologies. The Due Diligence team continued to produce guidance documents to assist members of the UCalgary community with mitigation plans and grant requirements. The guidebook to risk assessment forms is regularly updated. Two guides to research security and Mitacs applications were also produced, as well as guidance on US research security requirements for funding applications. The Compliance team portfolio continued to expand to include sanctions, export controls, controlled goods and lab security. The primary focus of
--	--	--

			the team continues to be grant compliance for federal and provincial research security requirements. To further enhance this program, the team implemented a STRAC review process for all grant applications and in the first year STRAC was in force, reviewed a total of 622 applications for compliance. After consultation with stakeholders, the team developed and implemented a compliance review framework for sanctions and export controls that include multiple business units including supply chain management, legal, finance, admissions and travel. All told, the team completed 103 sanctions compliance assessments under the new framework. A Lab Security Enhancement Fund Program was created and successfully executed whereby five labs across campus received a total of \$86,000.00 in funding to improve the security posture of their lab space. The team also began the formal process of transferring responsibility for the Controlled Goods Program to Research Security, an important requirement for lab security when applicable. The team created reference documents and guidelines for all programs under its portfolio including STRAC, sanctions, export controls, controlled goods, trael security, lab security, procurement risks, and malign foreign talent recruitment programs. These documents will assist researchers and employees in their understanding of various research security touch points on campus.
--	--	--	--