

Progress on UCalgary Research Security Project Objectives – 2025/26 report

Total Research Security award: \$1,257,061

Project name	Objective(s)	Allocated amount	Progress
Embedding a Culture of Research Security into UCalgary's Research Ecosystem	The Research Security Division (RSD) acts as a comprehensive resource for the UCalgary community that strengthens awareness of research security, identifies and mitigates risks, and provides tailored guidance. - Continue to provide a robust education and awareness program that includes required training modules, information sessions, and workshop sessions. - Provide vetting services and assistance with mitigation plans to the university community, including mandatory vetting for high-risk entities. - Provide support for researchers completing research security requirements in grant applications. - Implement a comprehensive compliance program, including measures for sanctions, export controls and controlled goods.	\$1,257,061	RSD's outreach and education activities included organization and/or participation in 53 information sessions with a total of 2,609 participants. RSD organized and led information sessions on topics such as Dual Use Research: Safeguarding AI, Robotics and Autonomous Systems Research; Travel Security; and Research Ethics and Research Security 101. UCalgary designed and launched a new online required training module on foreign talent programs (5,236 total course completions over the reporting period) and supported the development of training modules on deep fakes and privacy awareness. RSD continues to refresh and develop new resources for its website, including guidebooks and fact sheets on topics such as grant requirements, international travel, and lab security. RSD completed comprehensive vetting reports on over 1,300 entities using Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT). This includes mandatory vetting of all visiting student researchers, and most international visitors. Mandatory vetting of all post-doctoral fellows was piloted in March 2026 and implemented in April 2026. Twenty-three percent of entities vetted were accompanied by a one-on-one consultation to discuss risks and mitigations. RSD provided tailored support and reviews for the completion of

	• Introduce a lab security program with a focus on sensitive research facilities. • Have a robust travel security program. • Work collaboratively to strengthen research security within the Canadian post-secondary sector.	research security requirements for research grants, including risk assessment forms, mitigation plans, attestation forms for the policy on Sensitive Technology Research Areas of Concern (STRAC), Mitacs applications, and Horizon Europe applications. RSD has implemented a compliance program for research grants including risk mitigation plan implementation and affiliation verification. RSD is responsible for the contract security, export controls, and controlled goods programs. RSD has implemented a sanctions compliance program (79 assessments completed). Mandatory reviews of legal agreements meeting predetermined risk criteria have been implemented (82 reviews). In fall 2025, a lab security program was launched, with a focus on sensitive research areas that receive federal and/or provincial funding. Nine in-depth assessments of labs were completed, and 5 recommendation reports written. RSD provided 1:1 tailored travel security briefings to 36 researchers and staff members, and 131 individuals utilized the loaner device program for international travel. Together with UAlberta, UCalgary RSD leads the Alberta Research Security Community of Practice (COP). COP consists of 22 post-secondary institutions that meet monthly to share best practices and learn from each other. In June 2025, UCalgary hosted an in-person, two-day annual general meeting, which included the launch of a formal mentorship program. UCalgary designed and provided nine OSINT training modules for research security practitioners and research support staff at Canadian post-secondary institutions (379 module completions). This free training addressed a need amongst the research security community, strengthening the capabilities of institutions across Canada (particularly smaller institutions).
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