Risk Management and Research Security

TD Week

April 30, 2025

The University of Calgary, located in the heart of Southern Alberta, both acknowledges and pays tribute to the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta (Districts 5 and 6).

Speakers

- Jessica Edge, Manager, Due Diligence, Research Security
- Christopher Chow, Director, Research Agreements

Safeguarding Research Partnerships

Research Security Division

Jessica Edge, Manager, Due Diligence, Research Security

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Misuse of Research

- Your research might be vulnerable to misuse if it:
    - Generates knowledge, materials, and technologies that can be used for criminal or terrorist purposes.
    - Aids development of chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear weapons.
    - Develops surveillance technologies that can impact human rights and civil liberties.
    - Involves minority or vulnerable groups or develops social, behavioural, or genetic profiling technologies that can be used to discriminate against, harass, or intimidate people.
    - Develops technologies, methods, or knowledge that could harm humans, animals or the environment if released, modified or enhanced.

Source: European Commission, Guidance Note: Potential Misuse of Research, 2021.

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5 Vectors of Research Security

- Cybersecurity
- Partnerships
- Intellectual Property
- Physical Space
- People

Partnerships: Risks

Ask yourself the following questions to help identify risks:

- What does the partner intend to do with the research findings?

- Could engaging with the partner limit future engagements?

- What is the partner's source of funding?

- What is the partner's governance structure?

- What are the partner's data security practices?

- Could the partnership pose a risk to your reputation or the university?

Partner Vetting

Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) collects and analyses public information to help protect research.

- Verify your partner is who they say they are.

- Confirm your partner's relationships and motivations are clear.

- Ensure there are no obvious sources of unwanted control or influence.

- Verify governance structure and funding sources.

Risk Mitigation

Training and Awareness

Regularly brief your team on research security requirements.

Create a culture of openness where team members can raise security concerns and potential solutions.

Ensure all research team members complete mandatory UCalgary training modules on Research Security and Cybersecurity.
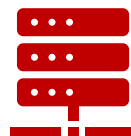
Physical Security

Clean desk policy.

Store sensitive materials in locked cabinets.

Password protect computers and sensitive instruments.

Monitor who and when has access to sensitive materials and facilities.

Consider restrictions around the use of personal devices in certain settings.

Data Access

Evaluate the sensitivity of your data.

What data is accessible and who can access it?

How is data shared amongst the team and with the partner?

Travel Security

Check travel advisories and understand potential risks.

Reach out for a travel briefing.

Use the UCalgary Loaner Device Program.

Limit the amount of information or data you travel with.

Use the UCalgary VPN when on public or unsecured networks.

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Our goal is to help you get to YES!
We are here to assist you in forming successful partnerships.

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Contact Information

- Visit the UCalgary Research Security website for information on how to safeguard your research.

- Login to our Sharepoint website for additional guides and resources.

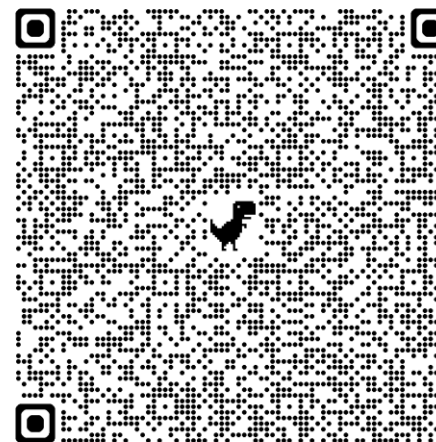- For assistance, contact Research Security at: researchsecurity@ucalgary.ca

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