

Policy on Sensitive Technology Research And Affiliations of Concern (STRAC)

Research Security Division
Research Services



What is STRAC?

The [Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern \(STRAC\)](#) came into effect on May 1, 2024. The policy applies to any Tri-Agency and Canada Foundation for Innovation funding opportunities involving research that **advances** a *sensitive technology research area*. These areas include advanced and emerging technologies that may be of interest to foreign actors and could be used to Canada's detriment. Applications will not be funded if any of the researchers involved in activities supported by the grant are affiliated with, or in receipt of funding or in-kind support, from a university, research institute or laboratory connected to military, national defence, or state security entities that could pose a risk to Canada's national security.

In support of this, the Government of Canada (GoC) has produced two lists to assist researchers in determining if the policy applies to their research – [Sensitive Technology Research Areas \(STRA\)](#) and [Named Research Organizations \(NRO\)](#). Both lists will be updated periodically by the GoC.

Key Terms

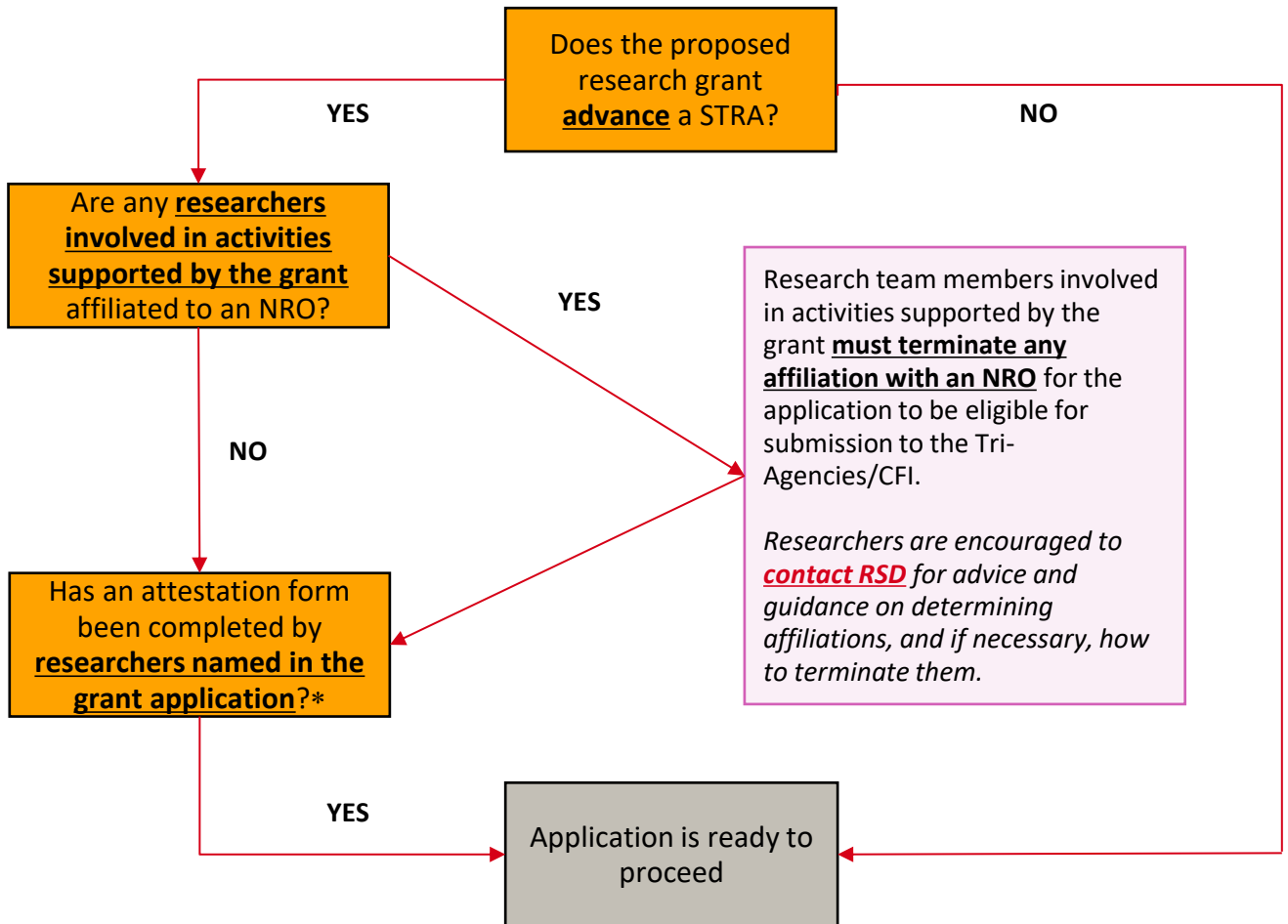
- Affiliation:** Individuals are considered affiliated to any organization at which they are employed, appointed, or conduct research. In cases where individuals hold multiple affiliations, all must be identified and considered when ensuring compliance to this policy.
- Funding and In-Kind Support:** Monetary or non-monetary contributions, that include but are not limited to goods, equipment, materials and supplies, professional services, use of facilities (office space, lab access), software, technologies and databases.
- Researcher:** Any person conducting research activities. For the purposes of funding applications to the federal granting councils and the CFI, researchers can hold different roles, including but not limited to applicants, co-applicants, collaborators, and highly qualified personnel (HQP). HQP can include undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, as well as research staff.
- Activities supported by the grant:** Any contribution to research related to the funded grant and throughout the lifecycle of the research project(s), up to and including the dissemination of research results (e.g., publications).
- Attestation:** Attestations are one-page documents that require a PI's name and affiliation along with a checkbox attesting that the PI is not affiliated with an NRO. **ALL researchers with named roles** will need to attach an attestation to their grant application **IF** they are advancing a STRA.

Questions?

If you have any questions regarding STRAC, reach out the Research Security Division at researchsecurity@ucalgary.ca and also visit our FAQ page.



Determining if STRAC applies to you



Research Security Review Process

Pre-award:

- All grant applications are reviewed to ensure that the research has been properly identified as **advancing** a STRA and, if applicable, that attestations have been submitted and completed correctly.

Post-award:

- All successful grant applications are reviewed using open-source intelligence to ensure that those named on the grant application do not have any affiliations to NROs.