

Research Security at TMU

Quick Reference Guide for Researchers

Research Security is a Shared Responsibility

Research security helps protect the integrity, people, partnerships, data, intellectual property (IP) and research outcomes that enable research to benefit society. From developing a proposal and selecting collaborators to conducting research, publishing results and commercializing discoveries, research security risks should be identified and managed at every stage.

Whether your research is local or international, every researcher plays an important role in protecting research and ensuring it remains open, collaborative and secure.

Four Principles

1. Protect Research Integrity

Conduct research openly while safeguarding people, data, IP and knowledge. Manage and disclose conflicts of interest and conflicts of commitment.

2. Know Your Research

Understand whether your research involves sensitive technologies, critical infrastructure, dual-use applications, large or sensitive datasets, personally identifiable information (PII) or other areas requiring additional safeguards.

3. Know Your Partners

Conduct appropriate due diligence on collaborators by understanding their affiliations, funding sources, ownership, and whether sanctions, export control or restricted entity considerations may affect the proposed research.

4. Manage Risks

Every research project may present research security risks. The goal is not to eliminate risk, but to identify, assess and manage risks throughout the research lifecycle.

Regulatory Requirements

FEDERAL

Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC)

Applies to federal funding involving Sensitive Technology Research Areas (STRAs). Projects must comply with the STRAC Policy, including ensuring that project personnel are not affiliated with Named Research Organizations (NROs).

FEDERAL

National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships (NSGRP)

Research partnerships funded by the federal government must comply with the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships (NSGRP). Security risk assessments and, where required, risk mitigation plans must be completed for proposed research partnerships.

PROVINCIAL

Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security (MCURES) Research Security Framework

Applies broadly to Ontario-funded research and requires institutions to assess and manage research security risks across research activities.

Research security requirements continue to evolve across Canadian federal and provincial funding programs, and international research security frameworks may also apply depending on the nature of your research and collaborations. TMU provides guidance to help researchers understand and navigate these evolving requirements.

TMU Research Security Support



Self-Check Tool

Determine:

- Whether research security requirements apply
- Which federal/provincial policies may be relevant
- Whether additional consultation is recommended
- What documentation may be required before submitting your grant



Research Security Online

Access:

- Self-Check Tool and guidance documents
- Canadian and international policy
- Safe travel for research resources
- Funding requirements
- Training materials and modules
- Government resources
- Contact information



Tailored Consultations

Meet with Research Security for advice on:

- Research security requirements for grant applications (e.g., STRAC, NSGRP)
- Research partnerships
- International collaborations
- Risk mitigation plans
- Conducting due diligence
- Data sharing
- Visiting researchers
- Procurement of grant funded equipment from private sector vendors
- Hiring and vetting highly qualified personnel (HQP)
- Safe travel protocols for international travel



Before You Submit a Grant or Start a New Project

Ask yourself:

- ☐ Do I know all project partners and collaborators?
- ☐ Could my research involve a sensitive technology or dual-use application?
- ☐ Does this funding opportunity require STRAC, NSGRP, MCURES or other compliance?
- ☐ Have I completed the TMU Research Security Self-Check Tool?
- ☐ Do I need a Research Security consultation?

Need Help?

Contact Research Security for advice or to book a consultation: researchsecurity@torontomu.ca

