Our focus: Helping researchers create and sustain successful research partnerships, safeguarding research and researchers by increasing awareness of threats to research security and working with researchers to develop the capacity to identify and assess risks to research security and to develop strong risk mitigation plans.

Our role: Translating complex research security considerations and requirements into actionable steps to protect research and researchers and ensure full compliance with government requirements. Our office aims to promote greater understanding of Canada’s national security context and research security requirements specifically in Alberta. We can recommend appropriate and proportionate safeguards for collaborative research activity with partners in Canada and internationally. We do all of this to support the University and its people in achieving successful funding and research outcomes.

Guiding principles:
- Academic Freedom
- Collaboration and Consultation
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Interdisciplinary approach
- Integrity
- Predictability and Consistency
- Research in the Public Interest
- Transparency

Support for research and researchers:
The Safeguarding Research Office was established in 2023 to support the University of Alberta research community. We offer a range of support services including:

- Research security briefings
- One-on-one discussions to collaboratively understand threats to research security, identify and assess risk, and develop effective risk mitigation strategies
- Provision of guidance on the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships and other government policy statements and requirements
- Coordination and review of Government of Canada Risk Assessment Forms and supporting documents
- Recommendations to strengthen Risk Mitigation Plans and implementation
- Advice on federal, provincial and institutional research security requirements
- Capacity-building support for research security, due diligence, and risk mitigation
- Provision of guidance documents, reports, advice, training and open source intelligence to enhance risk assessment and mitigation
- Management of the University’s Contract Security Program for researchers requiring Government of Canada security clearances or document security resources
- Access to a network of research security directors across Canada to assist with risk assessment in multi-institutional collaborations.

Awareness-raising and engagement
- Serve as a hub for research security information at the University and disseminate advice through a variety of channels
- Increase awareness of threat activities that target research, how these put researchers and their work at risk, and how these risks can be effectively and proportionately managed
- Promote research security at the University, including through tailored information supports
- Increase understanding of national and provincial requirements and the University's approach to implementation of these requirements and managing research security risk.

**Capacity-building - institutional and individual:**
- Liaise with federal and provincial governments and other universities to understand policies and develop best practice.
- Provide advice and share best-practices to protect research and researchers from threats to research security.
- Develop and share training and tools to increase individual capacity to understand and mitigate risk and to conduct due diligence and screening.
- Support capacity-building in research security - at the University of Alberta, provincially and nationally.
- Foster and support the development of the culture, infrastructure, policies, and technologies necessary to position the University of Alberta as a partner and ecosystem for trusted research.
- Support the implementation of institutional processes and systems to safeguard research, data, technology transfer and intellectual property.
- Create documented processes and tools to identify, assess and mitigate risks of unauthorized disclosure, transfer or use of research information or data.

**Risk assessment and mitigation support:**
- Provide information to researchers to help them understand and implement risk assessment processes and requirements (federal, provincial and institutional).
- Provide advice and recommendations to researchers conducting due diligence and interpreting open source information.
- Augment due diligence research using robust due diligence procedures and specialized risk assessment services.
- Provide advice and recommendations to researchers in the development and implementation of risk mitigation plans.
- Review and provide advice on Risk Assessment Forms and other mandatory federal government forms.
- Provide advice and share best-practices to protect research and researchers from threats to research security.
- Build effective relationships with federal and provincial authorities and academic counterparts to support continuous improvement and offer clear and current guidance to researchers and staff.
- Develop approval, audit, and continuous evaluation of risk assessment processes.

**Strategy and support:**
- Support the advancement of an effective institutional framework and action plan for research security, in consultation with key stakeholders.
- Provide expert advice and recommendations to senior leadership on research security issues.
- Assess enterprise-wide and project-specific risks and opportunities relating to research security and offering associated recommendations.
- Horizon-scan for threats, vulnerabilities, risks and opportunities relating to research security.

Please don't hesitate to reach out: safegrd@ualberta.ca, ualberta.ca/research/services/safeguarding-your-research