

Research Security

INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES 2023-2024

In 2023/24, the University of Alberta received Research Security funding of \$1,461,151 and has allocated the funding to the following projects:

Project Description	Allocated Amount	Institutional Performance Objective	Indicator	Targeted Outcomes	Outcomes Reported at end of the year
The UA Research Security Office: Enhancing Safeguarding Research Capacity on campus	\$ 550,000	The UA will expand our research security staff to support campus-wide coordination of safeguarding research programs, by March 31, 2025.	Number of human resources in a dedicated, central office that support the university's safeguarding research activities. This will include a Director of Research Security, Safeguarding Research Specialists and other staff dedicated to supporting training, compliance, cybersecurity, and inter-organizational coordination.	By March 31, 2025: A centrally-reporting safeguarding research team that is engaged with university academic units, and infrastructure, risk assessment and IT support services teams to develop and implement institutional safeguarding research policies, programs and services.	In Progress: A centrally-reporting safeguarding research team responsible for review of every Risk Assessment Form submitted with funding applications, coordination of an enhanced governance structure for safeguarding research, provision of advice, support and training to researchers to ensure compliance with federal and provincial research security policy and requirements, maintenance of a central information portal on research security for the UofA, sharing resources with other members of the Alberta Research Security Community of Practice, and participating in the 'Team Canada' national research security community.
Enhancing Campus-Wide Awareness of Research Security	\$ 250,000	The UA will develop a campus-wide safeguarding research training program, including an expanded library of supports and resources in collaboration with regional and national partners that will enhance awareness and adoption of research security best practices, by March 31, 2025.	Proportion of research community participating in safeguarding research and cybersecurity training; number of inter-institutional workshops and training sessions	By March 31, 2025: A knowledgeable research community that supports best practices in safeguarding research. Improved compliance with institution policies and national guidelines.	In Progress: Since the three Government of Canada research security courses have been integrated into the University of Alberta's learning platform, approximately 120 individuals have completed the training courses. The training has also been integrated into the University's professional development credit program for graduate and postdoctoral students. The Safeguarding Research Office provided advice and information in over 250 discrete engagements, coordinated campus-wide briefings about the new Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern, and offered briefings at events and meetings across all colleges and faculties. In addition, RSF funding supported a national research security conference, and a research security workshop for members of the Alberta Research Security Community of Practice.
Digital Tools to Support Research and Cyber Security	\$ 661,151	The UA will develop and expand the digital tools available to our campus community to improve risk assessment and risk mitigation, by March 31, 2025.	Turnaround time to review and approve due diligence investigations and risk assessments; proportion of campus community protected by enhancements to cybersecurity infrastructure	By March 31, 2025: Efficient reporting and management of project and partnership risks through a secure and centrally managed digital portal.	In Progress: All Risk Assessment Forms and requests for advice and information are centrally directed to a single mailbox, including through new features on the Safeguarding Research Office portal which allow users to request a consultation or briefing, ask a question, register for training or sign up for the Research Security Review newsletter. The Safeguarding Research Office also contributed to ongoing review and enhancement of information security policies and procedures, in addition to providing funding for enhanced cybersecurity tools and infrastructure. Specifically, funding was provided to obtain a vulnerability management tool. Funding has also been allocated to physical and cyber security upgrades for research projects identified as particularly sensitive.