Research Security
INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES 2022-2023

In 2022/23, the University of Alberta received Research Security funding of $1,430,827 and allocated the funding to the following projects:

Project Description	Amount Invested	Institutional Performance Objective	Indicator	Targeted Outcomes	Outcomes Reported at end of the year
The UA Research Security Office: Enhancing Safeguarding Research Capacity on campus	$ 404,031	Expand research security staff to support safeguarding research programs.	Successful staffing actions and establishment of associated job profiles and organizational chart	A centrally-reporting safeguarding research team that is engaged with university academic units, and intrastructure, risk assessment and IT support services teams to develop and implement institutional safeguarding research policies, programs and services.	**In Progress**: - Hired: 3 specialist research security staff (Director of Research Security and 2 Safeguarding Research Specialists) and 1 administrative assistant - Position posted/to be posted shortly: Safeguarding Research Specialist, Engagement and Education Lead, Implementation Support Lead, Policy Analyst
		Establish an integrated, centralized office for campus-wide oversight and coordination of safeguarding research activities	Establishment of physical and virtual presence of new Safeguarding Research Office		**Achieved**: Safeguarding Research Office was formally stood up with the arrival of the Director of Research Security. The team is physically co- located on campus with a virtual presence on the UA's external website.
Enhancing Campus-Wide Awareness of Research Security	$ 25,764	Develop campus-wide safeguarding research training program	Documented participation in research security training programs, increased awareness of research security as demonstrated in Risk Assessment Forms and adherence to National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships	A knowledgeable research community that supports best practices in safeguarding research. Improved compliance with institution policies and national guidelines.	**In Progress:** - 109 individuals completed "Introduction to Research Security and Cybersecurity" courses - Co-hosted national 2023 Research Security Conference held in Calgary in October 2023. - Under development: additional training materials, guidance documents and other forms of awareness-raising supports. - In February 2023, training will be offered on research security due diligence and risk assessment by experts from the Center for Research Security & Integrity (CRSI)
		Establish a library of research security supports and resources in collaboration with regional and national partners	Range of resources offered to support awareness and education through a variety of platforms		**In Progress:** - Resources offered primarily through the external Safeguarding Your Research website. - Additional bespoke information provided upon request to the Safeguarding Research Office. - In the coming months, a wide range of resource documents will be developed and provided to the UAlberta community via a new internal website. - With UCalgary developing a hub and spoke approach to building capacity and resilience in the province -- resources developed will support UAlberta and also other Alberta post-secondary institutions.
		Support development of a cadre of professionals with deep capacity in research security to advance awareness and support UAlberta Safeguarding Research Framework	Number of professionals trained and by their capacity to offer support for researchers and others in the community.		**In Progress:** Safeguarding Research Specialists are progressing through SANS OSINT training courses to deepen their knowledge of OSINT techniques and methodologies in support of robust due diligence at the University. The entire Safeguarding Research Office received training through the 2023 Research Security Conference and on-boarding with Kharon Clearview.

Digital Tools to Support Research and Cyber Security	$ 600,441	Develop and expand digital tools available to support risk assessment and mitigation	Number of tools available and employed to support enhanced and more efficient due diligence	Efficient reporting and management of project and partnership risks through a secure and centrally managed digital portal.	**In Progress:** Kharon Clearview was acquired Oct-2023 as a digital tool to support risk assessment and mitigation. Delayed acquisition related to more than anticipated time needed to evaluate all the commercial options for responsible financial investment and identifying the best tool to meet requirements.
		Expansion of multi-factor authentication to enhance cybersecurity	Number of university users and systems employing MFA		**Achieved:** As of March 30, 2023, all faculty and staff are registered/provisioned onto Multi-factor Authentication (MFA), and all new/incoming employees will be enrolled in MFA upon their start date. As of July 4, 2023, MFA was deployed for the university's communications and productivity suite, Google Workspace apps.
		Expansion of internet firewalls and secure endpoints to enhance cybersecurity	Progress of internet firewall project and usage of secure endpoint technology by University users		**In Progress:** As of Nov 1, 2023, the new firewall project is approximately 75% complete, and on course to meet the projected end date of February 28, 2024. When the remaining 25% are migrated, all networks will be on the new firewall including all of those used for research projects.
Corporate Security Infrastructure Supports	$400,000	Invest in corporate security infrastructure (physical and digital) to receive and hold classified and sensitive documents	Creation of a new or retrofitted space which meets all identified physical and cyber security specifications set out by the Government of Canada.	Recognition by federal government authorities as meeting all requirements for Designated Organization screening under the Contract Security Program including Document Safeguarding Capability, successful competition in federal procurement processes, increased interest in UA as a host for sensitive research projects (as measured by invitations or offers to participate in that type of project), and increased ease of access to and storage of classified information which supports risk-informed decision-making about research security issues.	**Achieved with time extension:** Funds supported significant enhancements to the University's digital infrastructure for secure storage of research information and data. Specifically, the funding supported acquisition of additional Dell Powerscale storage approved for sensitive data to provide a secure storage location for research data, licensing for the new university Virtual Private Network authentication servers to enable secure remote connections, firewall upgrades to provide network and internet research security, and a new multifactor authentication platform to increase the security of access control for the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry's digital research information. These upgrades significantly enhance our digital research security posture and also enable us to better-meet the requirements outlined in the Contract Security Program manual.