

From the Desk of Denise Spiller, Director

Office of Research Security (ORS)

By law, security clearance holders are required to self-report all life events — incidents that could impact your ability to meet security clearance requirements. Self-reporting is mandatory, and it's always better to be honest and forthright.

If you're not sure what to report, ask your security manager, or security staff. For more information go to www.dcsa.mil/mc/pv/mbi/self_reporting/



I'm sure everyone has received the **email from OIT, Titled: Coming Soon for UAH Staff: the Phish Alert Button**. I wanted to clarify that this is not something that replaces your **"Suspicious Reporting" to ORS**. We want you to continue sending the emails for **"suspicious reporting"** OIT typically is looking for Phishing & Spam emails. If you have an email to report and in doubt please send to ORS & OIT.

The End of the Year Deadline is approaching quickly to complete your Annual Refresher Security Training. Please plan to attend one of the trainings listed:

- **Thursday, November 6**, Registration from 11:00am to 11:30 am, Speaker presentation from 11:30am- 12:30 pm, Location: VBH – C-16-E (UAH Campus), speaker: TBD (first come/first serve), Park in W29 and W30 (We will meet at ORS and walk over) RSVP: <https://forms.gle/JYJjsHTVUmA1vvRS8>
- **Thursday, November 13**, Registration from 11:00am to 11:30 am, Speaker presentation from 11:30am- 12:30 pm, Location: VBH – C-16-E (UAH Campus), speaker: Special Agent (SA) Selena Golden, Redstone Arsenal Field Office (first come/first serve), Parking in W29 and W30 (We will meet at ORS and walk over) RSVP: <https://forms.gle/eb6f2FfyyJssatbm7>
- **Tuesday, November 18**, Registration from 11:00am to 11:30 am and speaker presentation from 11:30am- 12:30 pm, Redstone Arsenal Bob Jones Auditorium, speaker: Special Agent (SA) Selena Golden, Redstone Arsenal Field Office RSVP: <https://forms.gle/j8k59waWuDRByvEr6>

U.S. academic and research institutions face mounting scrutiny over China ties - 04 September 2025

In recent months, the U.S. academic and research community has been subject to intense scrutiny over ties to China. Even more than the controversial China Initiative of the first Trump administration, the past eight months have seen regulators, law enforcement, and Congress aggressively target U.S. scientists, universities, and academic medical centers through investigations to identify potentially inappropriate connections to China. Although China-related inquiries are of course only one aspect of the U.S. government's focus on universities, they require careful attention and calibrated responses because of the potential exposure for institutions and their faculty.

The U.S. government signaled its renewed focus on academia's China connections in a recent publication on the national security risks of international collaborations. On August 25, 2025, the U.S. Department of Education, National Counterintelligence and Security Center, and other federal partners issued guidance in a joint bulletin, "[Safeguarding Academia: Protecting Fundamental Research, Intellectual Property, Critical Technologies, and the U.S. Research Ecosystem](#)." The bulletin specifically names China as the top threat. It also describes favorite "targets" of foreign adversaries that seek to undermine U.S. national security:

- Students, faculty, researchers, and administrators with access to research and technical information
- Pre-publication research results and data
- Proprietary techniques and processes
- Research and laboratory procedures
- Practical knowledge and technical expertise
- Laboratory equipment, software, and computing resources
- Physical and virtual access protocols and passwords
- Budget estimates and grant information
- Prototypes or blueprints
- Student, employee, customer, or U.S. person data

All of this has led representatives from the FBI, State Department, Commerce Department, and other agencies to visit campuses at a breakneck pace, to seek information, offer tips, and generate dialogue to stay vigilant about inappropriate foreign activity.

To read the full article: https://www.hoganlovells.com/en/publications/us-academic-and-research-institutions-face-mounting-scrutiny-over-china-ties?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Read%20more%26gt%3B&utm_campaign=Sept.%2015%2C%202025



Five Major Questions Facing America's Research Universities This Fall

Now that the fall semester is underway at most of the nation's colleges and universities, attention turns to several major challenges to higher education, most of them posed by federal policies and funding decisions made by the Trump administration. Those concerns span areas of enrollment, budgets, research funding, and the status of the faculty.

Here are five questions of particular salience to research universities, which have been the most frequent target of federal government interventions this year.

What will happen to enrollment of international students?

In the 2023-24 academic year, 1,126,690 international college students were enrolled in U.S colleges and universities, according to the Institute of International Education's Open Doors report.

To read the full article: https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelnietzel/2025/09/01/five-major-questions-facing-americas-research-universities-this-fall/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Read%20more%26gt%3B&utm_campaign=Sept.%2015%2C%202025

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