

*From the Desk of Denise Spiller, Director*

## *Office of Research Security*

ORS would like to remind UAH faculty, staff and students who may be contacted by a Federal Agent/Federal Investigator for the purposes of arranging an in-person visit.

Any UAH faculty, staff or student receiving an announcement that a Federal Investigator will be coming to the UAH campus at a particular time shall immediately notify ORS or the Office of Counsel of the date and time of the appointment. The term “Federal Investigators,” as used in this policy, may apply to Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and similar officials who have jurisdiction to investigate criminal activity.

All ORS Policies have been updated and can be viewed using the following website:

<https://www.uah.edu/ors/ors-policies>



### **IN PERSON** 2024 Annual Security Refresher Trainings

ORS will offer Annual Security Refresher and Export Briefings in person this year. They will be on UAH campus and at the Bob Jones Auditorium. All trainings will be in person for 2024. The dates will be made public soon.

## Why isn't Australia Securing its Critical Research?

*Brendan Walker-Munro | Australia Association for Research in Education | January 18, 2024*

Just before Christmas last year, the National Science Foundation (NSF) of the United States announced aims to establish a network which would enable the funders of university research to share information about applications, applicants and programs of national security concern.

That same news story mentioned that the NSF had already established a dialogue with the main funding body for the United Kingdom (UK), Research and Innovation, as well as Canada's Ministry of Innovation, Science and Economic Development and the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council. Talks have also been planned with The Netherlands government, home of the National Contact Point for Knowledge Security.

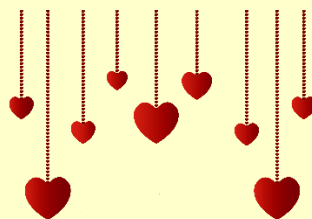
What was interesting – and somewhat chilling – about the announcement was the obvious omission of Australia and its principal funding body, the Australian Research Council (ARC).

This apparent lack of engagement with Australia over securing research seems a little at-odds with the United States' other foreign policy measures, such as the AUKUS Agreement under which Australia will become just the seventh country with nuclear-powered submarines. And submarines are just the tip of the AUKUS iceberg. Australia, its universities, and academics will be responsible for leading research into defence-aligned fields under AUKUS like cybersecurity, robotics, advanced hypersonics, and teaching the next generations of experts in those fields.

So why has Australia been left out in the cold?

Well, one possible reason is that Australia has one of the weakest research security frameworks in the developed world. We don't even recognize the term "research security" or the closely aligned "knowledge security" – the former term focuses on securing the products and outcomes of academic research, the latter on the actual researchers and research process itself.

To read the full article, use the link below: <https://blog.aare.edu.au/why-isnt-australia-securing-its-critical-research/>



## National Security Acts Could Damage Research and Exchanges, Say U.S. Universities

*Helen Packer | The Pie News | January 19, 2024*

Increased training for researchers on security threats, enhanced scrutiny of foreign partnerships and reviews of international contracts are among the steps US institutions have taken to address foreign security threats, according to a new briefing from the Association of American Universities.

Keen to avoid over-regulation, the group emphasized that researchers “take seriously” national security threats posed by international actors and that universities are still navigating newly-introduced requirements to protect American research.

But, with Congress now considering a raft of additional measures to protect federally funded research data and intellectual property at US institutions, the compliance burden on universities may continue to grow.

“We are concerned about overreach,” said Toby Smith, senior vice president for government relations and public policy at AAU.

More factors are listed in the full article. To read the full article, use the link below:  
<https://thepienews.com/news/foreign-interference-research-exchanges-say-universities/>

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