



NSF SECURE Center Research Security Briefing

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The SECURE Center distributes research security briefings and timely alerts via its listserv. The Briefing provides a centralized resource for research security-related information, including new statutory and research funding agency requirements, new or updated federal and community resources, and significant news items and scholarly works. The Center will also assess and provide commentary, interpretation, or implementation considerations on new requirements, notices and resources, working with higher education associations, legal partners, or agencies as needed.

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NSF SECURE Center Opportunities & Updates

New SECURE Center Resources Now Available

The SECURE Center is dedicated to enhancing research security by providing unique solutions identified, prioritized, designed, and developed by and with the research community, for the research community. As part of this effort, several new resources are now available on the [Products page](#) of the Center's website, including:

- Travel resources to help Research Security/Compliance Officers guide and advise their faculty on international travel and how to best protect themselves and their research intellectual property:
 - A [Basic Travel Checklist](#) designed for all international travelers, focused on cybersecurity and other considerations for protecting research data, intellectual property, and personal information
 - A [Travel Resource Guide](#) that provides additional context to the checklist, including travel case studies and additional resources and implementation considerations for rolling out a travel awareness campaign
 - A [Sample Travel Briefing](#) providing a structured curriculum research security professionals can use for discussion with travelers prior to departure, with a focus on cybersecurity best practices, export controls, and personal safety
- A [Risk Assessment Framework](#), adaptable for use by any institution, regardless of size, structure, or available resources. Institutions can use the framework to conduct risk assessments, develop new institutional risk assessment processes, benchmark and improve existing workflows, and train and educate staff.
- A [Risk Matrix Reference Guide](#) designed to save the research community time in understanding agency risk factors, including differences, and commonalities. The guide integrates NIH, NSF, DOE, and DoD risk assessment information for fundamental research proposal review.
- Process Pathfinder resources to help create, execute, and facilitate tabletop exercises to understand and refine organizational operations:
 - A [Facilitation Guide](#)
 - A [Process Gates](#) diagramming method to understand the existence and flow of organizational processes and the barriers they encounter
- Reference Resources that provide foundational information about research security:
 - A cross-agency [Glossary](#) designed to clarify key terms and expectations in research security for diverse stakeholders
 - A Research Security [Reference Library](#) that provides a comprehensive compilation of current and historical research security documents, including concise summaries and impact descriptions of federal-wide efforts, legislative requirements and congressional activities, and agency-specific policies and requirements

Professional Association Resources & Meeting Reports

AAU/APLU Send Joint Letter in Response to SAFE Act in NDAA

On October 15, 2025, the presidents of the Association of American Universities (AAU) and Association of Public Land-Grant Universities (APLU) sent a [joint letter](#) to the chairs and ranking members of the U.S. House and Senate Committees on Armed Services, requesting that the Securing American Funding and Expertise from Adversarial Research Exploitation Act (or SAFE Research Act) be removed from the final version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The [US House version](#) of the NDAA, which included the SAFE Research Act, was passed on September 10, 2025 and advanced to the Senate for reconciliation with [its version](#). In their letter, the presidents note that, if passed, the SAFE Act would impact all federal research funding agencies and create “enormously broad definitions of ‘hostile foreign entity’ and ‘affiliation’ that would apply to *any* agreement that a U.S. university has with *any* university in China...” and would “functionally require any U.S. institution of higher education and their faculty to terminate all engagements with numerous international universities and researchers as a condition of federal funding, regardless of whether these programs and collaborations are currently even active or inactive.”

Research Security News & Reports

Please note, articles linked below may require a subscription to view.

NSF SECURE Center cannot distribute copies of subscription-based articles.

EU moves to bar China from parts of Horizon Europe

(Research Professional News, 11/11/2025)

A [draft program](#) from Horizon Europe, the European Union's key research and innovation program for 2021-2027, proposes new restrictions on Chinese participation. In the proposed program, Chinese “entities” would be barred from three of the six major research areas (or “clusters”). Specifically, Chinese entities would be prohibited from participating in any “Research and Innovation Actions” (projects that aim to produce innovative products, services, or processes that are nearing market readiness) in the clusters for: health; civil security and society; or digital, industry and space. Chinese entities would still be allowed to participate in the clusters related to culture, climate/energy/mobility, and natural resources. Chinese universities supervised by China’s Ministry of Industry and Information Technology would be prohibited from participating in any parts of the program. ([more](#))

International Research Security Policy & Resources

Research security as a collective responsibility: empowering universities, enabling Europe

On October 27, 2025, prior to the [European Flagship Conference on Research Security](#), the Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research (CESAER) published the input note, “Research security as a collective responsibility: empowering universities,

enabling Europe.” The publication emphasizes the importance of research security as a shared responsibility to sustain Europe's research excellence while protecting academic freedom and fostering global competitiveness. It stresses the need for proportionate, risk-based safeguards to prevent misuse of research, particularly in sensitive areas like dual-use technologies, and to maintain open science principles. The publication also outlines key recommendations for universities, EU institutions, and national governments, including building strong institutional foundations, incentivizing and empowering researchers, integrating openness and security, ensuring responsible collaboration, and creating a cohesive, level playing field across Europe. ([more](#))

Research Security Events & Conferences

ASCE 2026 Registration Now Open

[Registration is now open](#) for the 2026 Academic Security and Counter Exploitation (ASCE) Program. Next year is the 10th anniversary of the largest research security conference in the world: February 24 - 26, 2026. ([more](#))

RISC Bulletin

Texas A&M University's Research and Innovation Security and Competitiveness ([RISC](#)) Institute disseminates weekly RISC Media Bulletins, covering topics related to research security, foreign influence, and the intersection of science, technology, and national security. To join the distribution list for the RISC Bulletin or view previous editions, [click here](#).

Previous NSF SECURE Center Research Security Briefings

Previous issues of the SECURE Center Research Security Briefings, in addition to the current issue, can be found on the [NSF SECURE Center website](#).

No SECURE Center Research Security Briefing 11/27/2025

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no NSF SECURE Center Briefing distributed on Thursday, November 27, 2025.

Looking to participate in NSF SECURE Center co-creation activities or contribute to weekly briefings?

Contact info@secure-center.org or [sign up here](#).