Research Security
INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES 2024-2025

In 2024/25, the University of Alberta received Research Security funding of $1,460,509 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	$ 880,300	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 reearch 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 intrastructure, risk assessment and IT support services teams to develop and implement institutional safeguarding research policies, programs and services.	**Achieved:** Significant increase of resources available on the Safeguarding Research Office portal and of the services and supports offered. (2024 Impact Report avaibale on UofA website). With a full staff complement, the SRO was able to significantly expand its services and programs during the period and to increase engagements across campus and within the province, building up a network of researchers, administrators, and students informed about research security. Through the newsletter, events, consultations and the podcast, the SRO significantly expanded its direct distribution list enabling targeted communications about research security developments. Through collaboration with the University of Calgary we increased support of research security competency across the province (a two-day workshop hosted in Edmonton and the inaugural UofA Research Security Day held in March 2025). The three Government of Canada training courses have been fully integrated into the institution's processes and learning management system, and also made available to graduate students for professional development credit.

Enhancing Campus-Wide Awareness of Research Security	$ 290,105	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.	**Achieved:** The Safeguarding Research Office successfully took on responsibility for ongoing operation and compliance with the Contract Security Program and Controlled Goods Program. Funding supported reliability security clearances as well as physical and digital security upgrades, in addition to development of related procedures. A new Travel Security Program was established and related provisions integrated into institutional Off-Campus Activity and Travel Procedure. The program includes provision of bespoke briefings for higher-risk travel, and well as development and dissemination of travel security guidance documents. In coordination with the University of Calgary, overall resilience of the Alberta research ecosystem was bolstered through regular meetings of the Alberta Research Security Community of Practice and its Executive Committee. An information-sharing platform was established, members were briefed by provincial and federal security and intelligence officials, and a two-day workshop for the community hosted at the UofA April 2024.
Digital Tools to Support Research and Cyber Security	$ 290,104	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.	**Achieved: I**ncreased storage space within the Research Data Storage Service, increasing accessibility and availability of secure research infrastructure on campus. Upgrades included physical security upgrades to one of the university data centres which houses a significant portion of the institution's data storage capacity. Physical and cyber security upgrades contributed to the institution's success in meeting IT security requirements associated with the Contract Security Program for a specific contract. Funding was also allocated to physical security upgrades (doors, access card system, cameras) for higher-risk research areas. These efforts provided significant assurance of a secure research environment, allowing for the establishment of a new centre focused on dual-use and defence research at the institution, participation in NATO DIANA, and appropriate safeguarding for research projects in sensitive technology research areas.