NSF SECURE Center Research Security Briefing

Vol. 1 No. 5: July 31, 2025

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.

Contents

Federal Agency News & Updates

Cadence Design Systems Agrees to Plead Guilty and Pay Over $140 Million for Unlawfully Exporting Semiconductor Design Tools to a Restricted PRC Military University

On July 28, 2025, the U.S. Department of Justice issued a press release regarding Cadence Design Systems' agreement to plead guilty to resolve charges of export control violations. The charges came as the result of the San Jose, California, company's sale of electronic design automation intellectual property technology to the National University of Defense Technology, a Chinese university included on the U.S. Department of Commerce's Entity List. ([more](#))

U.S. State Department Investigating Harvard University Participation in the Exchange Visitor Program

In a July 23, 2025, [press statement](#), Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced the opening of an investigation into Harvard University's eligibility to continue participating in the Exchange Visitor Program. While the statement notes that "All sponsors participating in this program are required to fully comply with exchange visitor regulations, transparency in reporting, and a demonstrated commitment to fostering the principles of cultural exchange and mutual understanding upon which the program was founded," it does not provide any details or specific allegations of infractions on the part of the university. In a related story, *The New York Times* [reported](#) that the Secretary's letter "gave Harvard a one-week deadline to produce a lengthy list of university records related to the student visa program."

Research Security News

Please note, articles linked below may require a subscription to view.
NSF SECURE Center cannot distribute copies of subscription-based articles.

How China's bold talent recruitment has shaped science (*Nature*, 7/29/2025): "Over the past three decades, thousands of Chinese researchers who studied or worked abroad have returned to the country through...talent-recruitment [programs]. These recruits — who often receive substantial funding and benefits — have largely had a positive influence on China's research landscape and contributed to its global competitiveness, say scientists." ([more](#))

U.S. Warns Montenegro Over University's Cooperation with Sanctioned Chinese Center (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 7/25/2025): "The United States has expressed concern over reports of the University of Montenegro's cooperation with a

scientific center controlled by the Chinese military's leading scientific and engineering research institution." ([more](#))

Upcoming Research Security-Related Events & Conferences

NCURA Annual Meeting:
Registration is open for the 67th annual NCURA meeting in Washington DC, August 10 - 13, 2025. The event includes a number of research security-related offerings, including concurrent sessions and a pre-meeting workshop. ([more](#))

Research-Security Related Sessions at Upcoming NCURA Annual Meeting:
- Research Security and Export Controls for the Research Administrator
- Research Security Programs: Agency Implementations and the Road to Compliance
- Managing Compliance in the Proposal Process
- Leveraging ORCID in Research Administration
- Building Capacity to Manage RISC: Investing in Research Integrity, Security, and Compliance at Mid-Sized and Smaller MSIs and HBCUs

Additional details and meeting registration information are available [here](#).

FDP Virtual Meeting:
Registration is now open for the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) Virtual September 2025 meeting, taking place Monday, September 15th (11 AM ET – 5 PM ET), Tuesday, September 16th (11 AM ET – 5 PM ET) and Wednesday, September 17th (11 AM ET - 2 PM ET). ([more](#))

COGR October Meeting:
Registration is now open for our October 23-24, 2025 meeting in Washington D.C. at the Washington Marriott in Georgetown. ([more](#))

Save the Date for ASCE 2026:
Mark your calendars now for the 2026 Academic Security and Counter Exploitation Program. Next year is the 10th anniversary of the largest research security conference in the world: February 24 - 26, 2026. through noon (CST) on August 31, 2025. Proposals are being accepted through noon (CST) on August 31, 2025 ([more](#))

Looking to participate in NSF SECURE Center co-creation activities or contribute to weekly briefings?
[Sign up Here!](#)