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.

Contents

Professional Association Resources & Meeting Reports

COGR Letter to USDA Regarding America First Memorandum

On July 31, 2025, COGR President Matt Owens [sent a letter](#) on behalf of COGR and its member institutions to US Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Collins regarding the secretary's July 8 memorandum, [America First Memorandum for USDA Arrangements and Research Security](#). In the letter, Owens requests Secretary Collins to provide clarification on several points, including:

- USDA's use of the terms "Arrangements" and "Sub-arrangements,"

- USDA's intended use of the term "Foreign Ownership, Control, or Influence" (FOCI) as applied to one of the new certification requirements for applicants,

- Confirmation that completion of the [SECURE Center's Consolidated Training Module](#) will fulfill the agency's research security training requirement, and clarification on whether this requirement applies to all senior/key personnel associated with a proposal, or only the individual applicant,

- USDA's prohibition of applicants who have participated in malign foreign talent recruitment programs in the past 10 years from working on projects, which deviates from the statutory language at [42 U.S. Code § 19231](#).

Additional information regarding USDA's America First Memorandum can be found in the SECURE Center's July 24, 2025, [Research Security Briefing No. 4](#).

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.

Securing American Innovation by Improving Research Security

(Foundation for American Innovation, 07/31/2025): Posted by a non-profit think tank, this article scopes the importance of research security and makes recommendations for federal government steps to ensure security and innovation. ([more](#))

Building a Wall Around Science: The Effect of U.S.-China Tensions on International Scientific Research

(National Bureau of Economic Research, revised May 2025): A working paper (originally issued in June 2024) discussing the status and impact of the US-China relations across measures of trainee mobility, cross-border knowledge flows, and researcher productivity. ([more](#))

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](#))

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