



Dear Researchers,

The [Research Security Program](#) would like to bring some recent U.S. government and federal sponsor agency actions to your attention. Many of these actions span across multiple federal sponsor agencies and may require additional action on your part.

Remember to contact the Research Security Program if:

- You are, or think you may be, involved in a [Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program](#).
- You are approached by a Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program.
- You have an award from, or have submitted/or plan to submit a proposal to, a federal sponsor agency and have collaborated on publications/projects with an 1286 List entity/program (pages 18-21 of the "[Countering Unwanted Foreign Influence in Department-Funded Research at Institutions of Higher Education](#)" document).
- You have any questions regarding this or related information.

[Email: Contact the Research Security Program](#)

Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs

Federal sponsor agencies have continued to implement prohibitions on participation in [Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs](#). Many sponsors have begun requiring all key persons to certify that they are not part of a Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs.

Unwanted Foreign Influence in Research

June 2023, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) issued "[Countering Unwanted Foreign Influence in Department-Funded Research at Institutions of Higher Education](#)". This document includes a risk matrix for DoD fundamental research and is responsive to requirements for DoD to maintain lists of entities/foreign talent programs of concern. Additional information is below.

Decision Matrix for Fundamental Research

Table 1: DoD Decision Matrix to Inform Fundamental Research Proposal Mitigation Decisions. Factors for Assessing a Covered Individual's Associations, Affiliations, Collaborations, Funding, and the Policies of the Proposing Institution that Employs the Covered Individual.

Note: Researchers should be familiar with the risk assessment processes of federal sponsors that fund their research. While some agencies, such as Department of Energy have risk assessment processes, other agencies, such as the National Science Foundation are still developing these formal processes.

Entities/Foreign Talent Programs of Concern

FY22 Lists Published in Response to Section 1286 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (public Law 115-232) - commonly referred to as the "1286 List".

The 1286 List:

- Identifies those foreign institutions that have been confirmed as engaging in problematic activity as described in the referenced law.
- Identifies foreign talent programs that have been confirmed as posing a threat to the U.S. as described in the referenced law.
- This list is subject to update, [bookmark the Research Security Program website](#) for future reference.

Critical and Emerging Technologies

February 2024, the National Science and Technology Council updated the [U.S. government's list of Critical and Emerging Technologies](#) (CET list).

Note: The document indicates that departments and agencies may consult this CET list when developing, for example, initiatives to research and develop technologies that support national security missions, compete for international talent, and protect sensitive technology from misappropriation and misuse.

Questions

If you have any questions, please [contact the Research Security Program](#).

Thank you,

Susan Gasparo

Director of Research Security, Office of the Vice-President for Research

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