

Research Security in Focus: Updates and Priorities with NSF

June 5, 2025



www.cogr.edu



[www.linkedin.com/
company/cogr](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cogr)



Overview of Research Security

Sara Barber

Science Policy Advisor

Office of the Chief of Research Security, Strategy, and Policy (OCRSSP)

National Science Foundation

Committee on Government Relations

June 5, 2025

Implementation Updates

Requirements

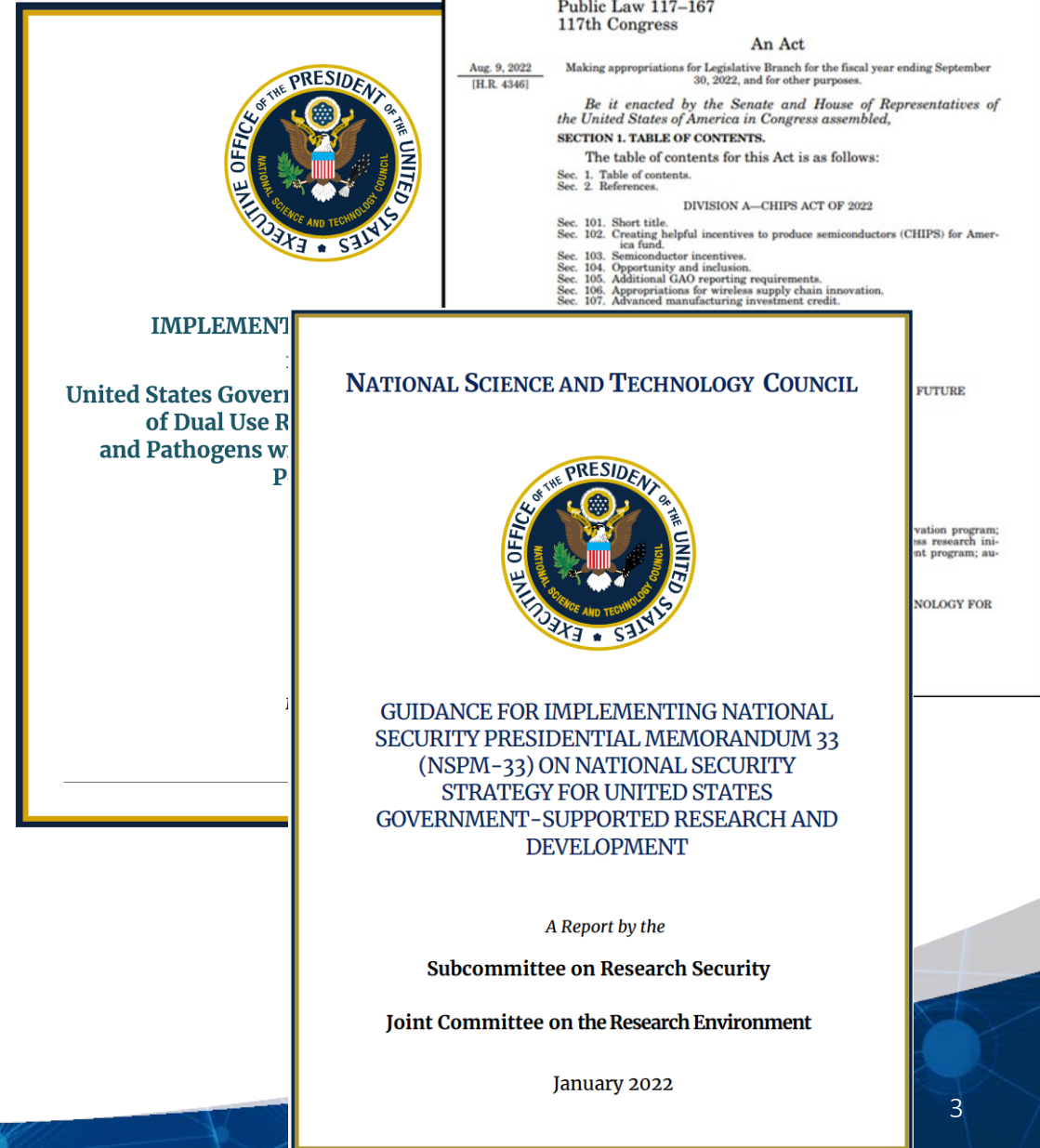
- Common Disclosure Forms – May 2024
- **Foreign Financial Disclosures (FFDR)** – July 2024
- *In progress – Research Security Training (RST)*
- *In progress – Confucius Institutes*
- *In progress – Research Security Programs (RSP)*
- *In progress – Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment*

Community Resources

- RST Modules – January 2024
- **SECURE Program** – July 2024
- **Research on Research Security (RoRS)** – April 2025

Oversight and Enforcement

- *In progress – TRUST Risk Assessment Pilot*
- *In progress – Dual-Use Research of Concern (DURC)*



Safeguarding the Entire Community in the U.S. Research Ecosystem (SECURE)



SECURE Program



SECURE Center

- **Awardee:** University of Washington
- **PI:** Mark Haselkorn
- **Award:** #2403771
- **Amount:** \$49,316,919
- **Start Date:** September 1, 2024
- **Subawards:** Northeastern University (MA), Emory University (GA), U. Missouri-Kansas City (MO), Mississippi State University (MS), University of Texas – San Antonio (TX), College of Charleston (SC), Texas A&M U. (TX), U. Michigan – Ann Arbor (MI), Stanford University (CA)



SECURE Analytics

- **Awardee:** Texas A&M University
- **PI:** Kevin Gamache
- **Award:** #2403953
- **Amount:** \$17,500,000
- **Start Date:** September 1, 2024
- **Subawards:** Hoover Institute at Stanford University (CA) & Parallax Advanced Research (OH)

SECURE Program



SECURE Center

- **Shared Virtual Environment**
 - Clearinghouse of information and best practices/lessons learned
 - Researchers, compliance officials, organization Leaders
- **Co-creation approach**
 - Self-identified challenges
 - Tailored tools and strategies
- **Condensed training module (1hr)**
 - New and updated content related to cybersecurity, MFTRP, and foreign travel
 - Delivery expected early June



SECURE Analytics

- **Argus Platform**
 - Data gathering and analysis
 - Beta testing in September
- **Training and support on risk assessment**
- **Expert reports on threat landscape and trends**

Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program (MFTRP)



Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program

Pre-Award

- Effective May 20, 2024
- Individuals who are party to an MFTRP are not eligible to serve as senior/key persons on a proposal.
- Senior/Key Persons must certify that they are not participating in an MFTRP.
- Organizations must certify that Senior/Key Persons have been made aware of the prohibition and have certified they are not a party to an MFTRP.

Post-Award

- Effective June 9, 2025
- PIs and co-PIs on an NSF award made on or after May 20, 2024 must complete an annual certification that they are not party to an MFTRP.
- PIs and co-PIs will be prompted to certify via Research.gov starting on July 9, 2025.
- Follow-on annual certifications will be tied to the date of the first award made on or after May 20, 2024.
- The MFTRP annual certification applies to PIs and co-PIs. An annual certification process for all senior/key personnel is under development.



Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program

Pre-Award

- Effective May 20, 2024
- Individuals who are party to an MFTRP are not eligible to serve as senior/key persons on a proposal.
- Senior/Key Persons must certify that they are not participating in an MFTRP.
- Organizations must certify that Senior/Key Persons have been made aware of the prohibition and have certified they are not a party to an MFTRP.

Post-Award

- Effective June 9, 2025
- PIs and co-PIs on an NSF award made on or after May 20, 2024 must complete an annual certification that they are not party to an MFTRP.
- PIs and co-PIs will be prompted to certify via Research.gov starting on July 9, 2025.
- Follow-on annual certifications will be tied to the date of the first award made on or after May 20, 2024.
- The MFTRP annual certification applies to PIs and co-PIs. An annual certification process for all senior/key personnel is under development.

NOTE: OCRSSP will be making example MFTRP contracts available on its website.



Foreign Financial Disclosure Requirement (FFDR)



Foreign Financial Disclosure Reporting

2025 Reporting Period

- Proposed: July 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025
- Updated: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Submission Period

- 2024 submission period:
 - July 1, 2024 – July 31, 2024
 - Grace period until September 3
- 2025 submission period:
 - September 1, 2024 – October 31, 2025
 - No grace period

Public Reporting

- Opt-out mechanisms for sensitive information
- Privacy, privilege, confidentiality, or other interest exempt from public disclosure under federal law



Trusted Research Using Safeguards and Transparency (TRUST)



Research on Research Security (RoRS)



Research on Research Security

Program Description (PD 25-275Y)

- Posted April 11, 2025
- No Deadline
- Proposals submitted by June 30 will be considered for FY 2025 funding.

Building a new research discipline, community of practice

- Conferences/Working Groups/EAGER/Planning Grants
- Advance understanding of the factors that influence research security
- Strategies to leverage and produce data, analysis, theory, and tools that inform decision-making

International Working Group

- Help guide the development of the global research community
- Establish mechanisms for collaboration, leveraging expertise, addressing shared concerns



Research Security Programs (RSP)



Research Security Programs

Program Elements

- Cybersecurity
- Foreign Travel Security (training and reporting)
- Research Security Training
- Export Control Training

Centralized Certification

- In coordination with OSTP
- Interagency Working Group formed in Oct 2024
- Negotiating a Memorandum of Agreement
- First draft circulated to WG members in May
- Expect feedback by June 6

Issues Under Consideration

- Designation of Covered Institutions
- Standards for Program Elements
- Oversight
- Identification of foreign travel risks





Contact Information:

Sara Barber

OCRSSP Science Policy Advisor

sbarber@nsf.gov

A top-down view of a wooden desk. In the upper right, a portion of a white laptop keyboard is visible, showing keys for a decimal point, plus/equals, and hyphen/underscore. To the left of the keyboard is a yellow paperclip. Three sticky notes are arranged in a row: a pink one with a large black 'Q', a light green one with a large black '&', and another pink one with a large black 'A'. A silver pen lies diagonally across the bottom right of the sticky notes.

Q

&

A