

# Safeguarding Research: Practical measures and practices at a small institution

## Introduction

Research Security (RS) in Canada has expanded rapidly in response to increasing risks related to:

- Theft of research, data, and intellectual property
- Foreign interference and espionage by state and non-state actors
- Emerging dual-use technologies (AI, quantum computing, biotech), etc.

Research Administrators (RAs) now play a crucial role in balancing open science principles with national security expectations, ensuring that research environments remain secure without stifling innovation.

## Best Practices

### Training/Workshops

- Researchers
- Research Administrators
- Relevant Units, Information Technology, etc.

### Acquisition of Tool Kits

- Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) tools
- Paid software, such as Dimension, Kharon, etc.

### Due Diligence Assessment As Required

- Research Security Officer or alternative
- Community of Practice (CoP)**
- Provincial CoP, Team Canada, and
- Regional Research Security Centres (RRSC)

## Scope

With limited resources, you want to define the scope and educate the research community to avoid scope creep—this remains a struggle for many small institutions.

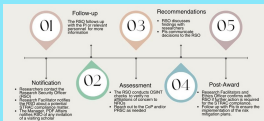


The plan should include (but not limited to) the following:

- Strategic priorities
- Research Security Office (or equivalent) operational priority (ies)
- Objectives
- Activities, and
- Baseline implementations

## Sample Compliance Process

The compliance process always starts with who notifies whom? Hence, collaboration between relevant units remains essential.



## Conclusion

Supporting RS requires collaborative education on best practices and emerging threats

- Engage faculty, students, and staff so all understand their role in protecting sensitive information.
- Strengthen institutional readiness through strategic CoP engagement and targeted use of ISED and RRSC resources.

## References

Safeguarding\_Research\_Checklist.pdf (science.gc.ca)

Case studies Scenarios are described [here](#) [Safeguarding Your Research](#)



University of  
**Lethbridge**

Olusola Fasunwon, PhD, PGeo  
Office of Research & Innovation Services  
sola.fasunwon@uleth.ca



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