



UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO

RESEARCH ALERTS 

## Research Partnership Security Checklist for International Partnerships Launching on August 30, 2021

August 27, 2021 • Reply to [Kenneth Meiklejohn](#)

Starting on **Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**, faculty engaged in international research partnerships will be asked to fill out a [Research Partnership Security Checklist](#). This change is in alignment with a heightened focus on research security by the Government of Canada and responds to recommendations made by the [Government of Canada – Universities Working Group](#). The checklist is meant as a tool to assist Principal Investigators in assessing the suitability and potential risks of engaging with an international partner, prior to proceeding with a specific project.

U of T benefits significantly from international partnerships of all types. By partnering internationally faculty members can develop significant collaborations which enhance their research, contribute to effective knowledge translation, and can benefit the broader community. Partnerships also provide opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to engage in research and learning collaborations which broaden their experience and perspective. However, some international partnerships have risks associated with them, and it is important for faculty members to understand and mitigate these potential risks, including risks to IP, cybersecurity risks and national security risks.

Before completing the checklist, individuals are asked to review [Engaging in International Research Partnerships: Principles and Approaches](#) for more information and guidance on international partnerships and associated risks.

The Research Partnerships Security Checklist should be completed before any institutional partnership agreement with a research component (such as a Memoranda of Understanding), and specific research project(s) are initiated. The checklist will be available on the [OVPI website](#) and MRA applicants who indicate that their collaboration includes an international research partner will be directed to this link as of August 30, 2021. *The Principal Investigator is to submit this completed form to [international@utoronto.ca](mailto:international@utoronto.ca) within two weeks of submitting a research proposal/agreement for university endorsement via the MRA system, or before initiating any international research partnership and project which was not submitted via MRA.*

The purpose of this process is to:

- Raise awareness about the potential risks of some international partnerships and provide practical approaches to mitigation
- Provide tools to enable Principal Investigators to undertake their own risk assessment to safeguard their research
- Build stronger and safer international partnerships in the future

Information provided will be reviewed centrally. Applicants will be notified within two weeks to confirm their information has been reviewed. If risk mitigation strategies are advised, you will be contacted by the Office of the Vice President, International and/or from within your Division to discuss your proposed partnership.

This is the first phase of the checklist roll out, which may be changed and adapted as needed.

**Other resources:**

Additional resources and guidelines to safeguard your research can be found on the [OVPI website](#), including those provided by the Government of Canada.

If you have questions about the Checklist, please contact the Office of the Vice-President, International at [international@utoronto.ca](mailto:international@utoronto.ca).

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