

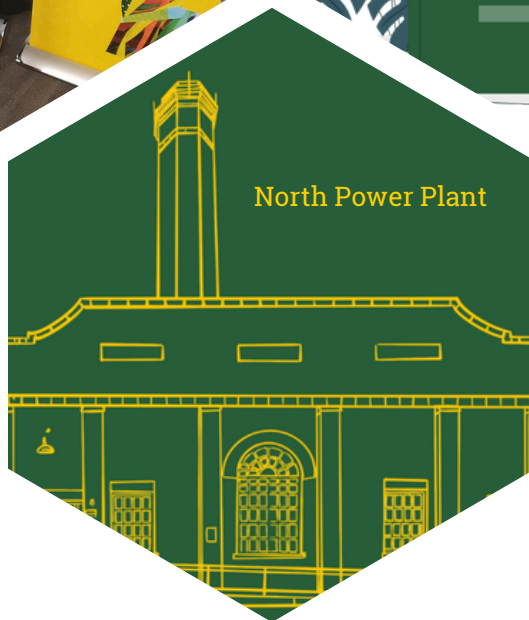
2024 IMPACT REPORT

ENGAGE, EDUCATE, SUPPORT



**UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA**

Safeguarding Research Office
Office of the Vice-President
(Research & Innovation)
University of Alberta



Letter from the Director

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Jacqueline Littlewood

Director, Research Security

Thank you for your interest in the inaugural Impact Report of the Safeguarding Research Office (SRO) within the Office of the Vice-President (Research and Innovation). This was the first full year of operation for SRO and I am proud of the services and support we delivered to engage and strengthen our research community. Over the course of 2024, we accomplished a number of important milestones - including reaching our full staff complement - allowing us to expand and improve the support that our office provides to safeguarding research and researchers at the University of Alberta.

Our office is fully funded by the Government of Canada, allocated through the Research Support Fund. Funding stability, strong support from senior leadership within OVPRI, and close collaborations with other researcher support teams across campuses have been critical in allowing us to respond to the complex and evolving considerations involved in safeguarding research at all levels. I am extremely grateful for the professional generosity I have encountered, and the collaborative efforts I have been part of at the U of A, and am inspired by our community working together toward the shared objective of providing integrated support for researchers across the research lifecycle.

"Funding stability, strong support from senior leadership at OVPRI, and close collaborations with other researcher support teams across campuses have been critical in allowing us to develop and broaden the complex and evolving considerations involved in safeguarding research at all levels."

I hope that the results reflected in this report further awareness of the research security and risk mitigation support we offer researchers, as well as the positive impact that this is having on research funding success rates. Equally important, but difficult to quantify, are the

Letter from the Director

02

relationships built by members of our team with individual researchers, trainees and staff across the institution. Maintaining and growing these relationships will be an ongoing priority in the coming year.

What's Next?

In 2025, we will broaden and diversify the services and support available to the University of Alberta research community, including through the new Travel Security Program, tailored risk mitigation support services delivered by our Implementation Support Leads, and institutional implementation of specialized programs such as the Contract Security Program and Controlled Goods Program. In addition to providing the highest quality support to our researchers, another goal is to facilitate new research and funding opportunities by making the University of Alberta a trusted partner for sensitive and defence-related research through creation of a secure research ecosystem across our campuses.

We are looking forward to strengthening our relationships with our national and provincial research security communities of practice, and with our government partners, to enhance our collective resilience and thrive in a complex and ever-evolving research climate. Helping the modern responsible researcher deliver research with a positive, sustainable impact is our goal - thanks to all of you who strive to make that possible.

We welcome your feedback. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the dedicated members of the Safeguarding Research Office team. **We're here to help!**

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Littlewood
Director, Research Security
University of Alberta

"We are looking forward to strengthening our relationships with our national and provincial research security communities of practice, and with our government partners, to enhance our collective resilience and thrive in a complex and ever-evolving research climate."

100%

Fully funded by Government of Canada,
Research Support Fund

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Staff members available to support researchers

405

Total researcher engagements in 2024

Team & Services

03

Safeguarding Research Office



Supports available for researchers from the Safeguarding Research Office:

- In-person or virtual consultation
- Risk assessment support
- Risk mitigation planning and implementation assistance
- Research security guidance, advice, and resources
- Training and capacity-building opportunities

We tailor our support to meet your needs.

Our Governance

Research
Security
Impacts
Committee

Risk
Assessment
Sub-Committee

Our Communities of Practice (CoP)

Alberta
Research
Security CoP

Team
Canada
Research
Security CoP

Milestones

January 10

The Terms of Reference for the **Risk Assessment Sub-Committee** are finalized

January 16

The Government of Canada's **Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern** is published

January 17

The **SRO Portal** is launched

March 21

The **Research Security Impacts Committee** meets for the first time

May 1

The **Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern** comes into effect

September 10

SRO launches a newsletter, **Research Security Review**

September 16

SRO launches the **Attestation App**

November 24

SRO marks its **400th** engagement

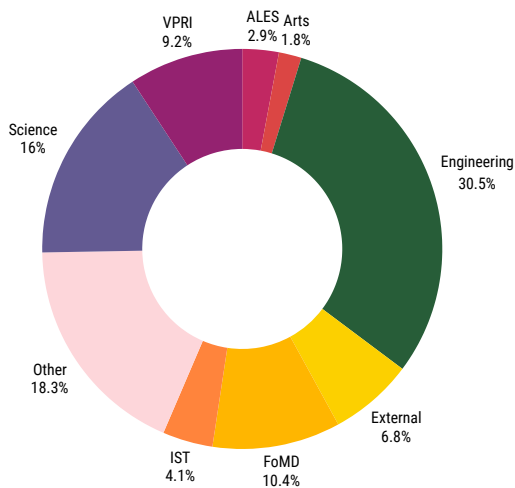


SRO By the Numbers

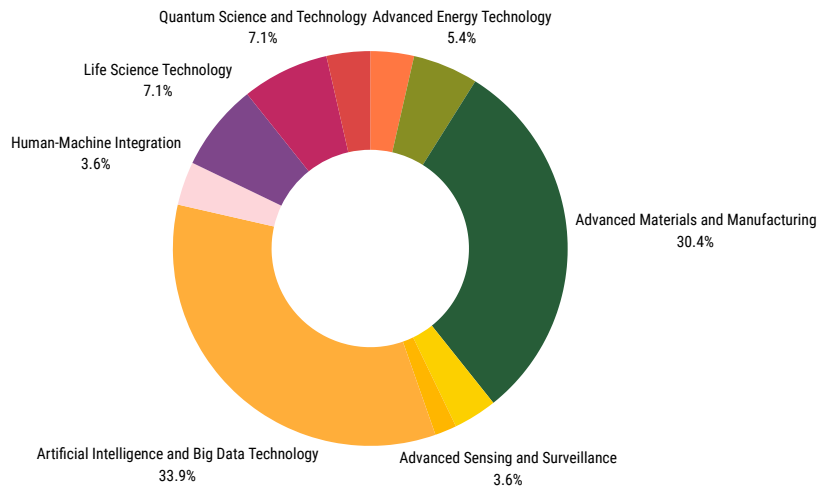
Engagements

The Safeguarding Research Office supported our community through **405 total engagements** in 2024 - that's risk consultations and assessments, briefings on risk mitigation and implementation, faculty and committee outreach, training and capacity building, grad student events, research administration coordination, and more!

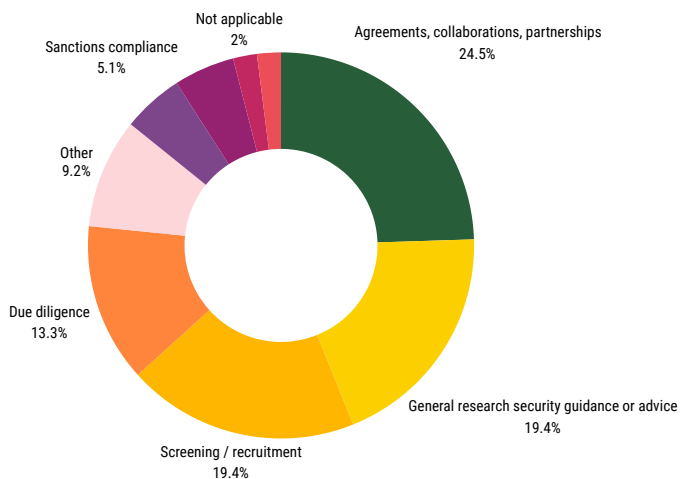
Engagement by Faculty



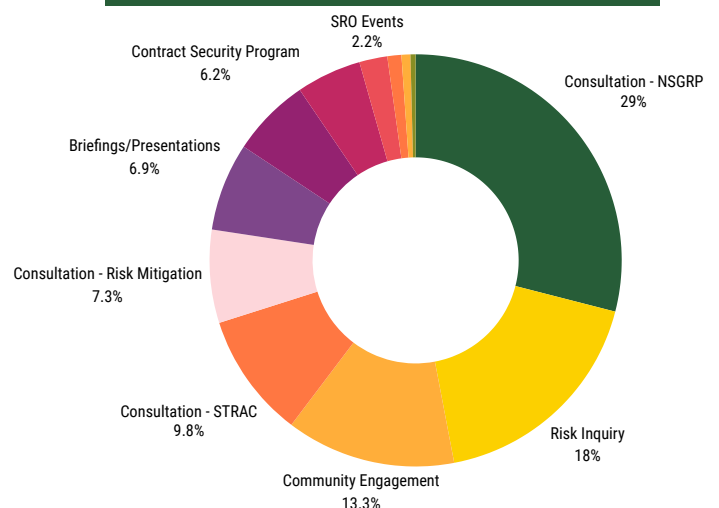
Engagement by Sensitive Research Area



Engagement by Request Type



Engagement by Consultation Type



SRO By the Numbers



93 Risk Assessment Forms supported and approved

374 Entities reviewed using responsible due diligence

257 Grad students registered in Research Security training

496 Faculty and staff registered for Research Security training

6 Research Security Impacts Committee meetings

17 Risk Assessment Sub-Committee meetings

937 Safeguarding Research Office subscribers

5 University of Alberta campuses visited

SRO By the Numbers

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10 Alberta Research Security Community of Practice meetings

18 Team Canada Community of Practice meetings

7 Safeguarding Research Office raffle winners

33 Events hosted or attended



The 66 postsecondaries that are part of Team Canada

A List of Firsts

08



**1st
responsible
open source
due diligence
protocol in
the country**

**1st
Attestation
Application in
Canada**

**1st
dedicated
podcast on
research
security**



**1st academic
research
security
newsletter in
Canada**

**1st campus
Research
Security
Day**

**1st provincial
research
security
community of
practice**

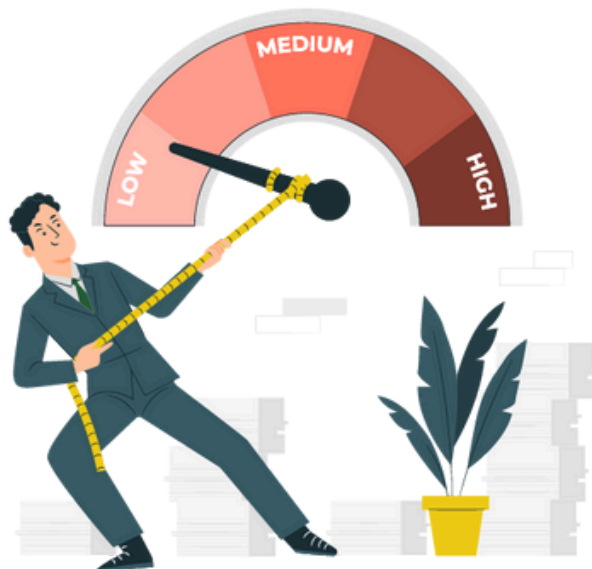


Tools & Guidance

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The SRO Portal has a ton of support features!

- [Research Security Requirements At-A-Glance](#)
- [Attestation App](#)
- [STRAC Policy Process and Attestation App for Researchers Guidance](#)
- [Safeguarding Research Events Calendar](#)
- [Research Security Overview Presentation](#)
- [Travel Security Checklist](#)
- [Completing Your Risk Assessment Form](#)
- [Open Science and You](#)
- [The Mindset of the Modern Responsible Researcher](#)
- [Responsible Open Source Due Diligence Protocol](#)



We're Here to Help!

Support for SRO

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Risk assessment, mitigation, implementation, and other guidance and advice are fundamental supports offered to U of A researchers.

Xiaoting Li, a Professor in the Department of East Asian Studies and former Associate Dean, Research (Arts), describes the team's work supporting researchers as "invaluable," having consulted on "multiple occasions from international institutions' research collaboration inquiries to interdisciplinary grant applications."

Patricia Dolez, Associate Professor in Textile Science remarked that SRO "has been great in helping us meet the requirements in terms of Research Security for the preparation of our CFI Innovation Fund application," a funding stream for which multiple requirements apply.

Jason Acker, Associate Vice-President of the Research Integrity Support portfolio, highlighted the SRO's early success operationalizing research security at the U of A: "The team has made great strides in increasing research security awareness across the institution and into the wider community, developing our collective competency and helping to secure our position as a trusted research partner."



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**UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA**

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