



<b>Newsline</b>	Research Security		
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**Executive summary:** Recent developments in Canada and globally highlight an evolving research security landscape. Investments in artificial intelligence, expanding international collaboration, and emerging technologies are driving innovation while increasing risks such as foreign interference, dual-use technologies, and opaque funding sources. These developments highlight the importance for universities, including the University of Regina, of balancing open research with strong governance, due diligence, and awareness of geopolitical risks to support innovation while protecting national security interests.

**Key Points:**

- Expansion of AI Research Partnerships in Canada:** The University of Toronto and Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) launched a major AI and computing research laboratory focused on next-generation technologies, including energy-efficient AI systems and large-scale data intelligence. The initiative will support about 100 research projects over three years and connect Canadian researchers to AMD’s global Research and Development (R&D) network alongside institutions such as MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich). This reflects Canada’s continued investment in AI innovation and its efforts to remain competitive in global research and development.

**What this means:** AI is a strategic technology area with economic and national security implications. Partnerships with global industry leaders accelerate innovation but may introduce risks related to intellectual property protection, technology transfer, and access to sensitive data and infrastructure. Appropriate governance, contractual safeguards, and research security awareness are important considerations in these collaborations.
- Canada-India Talent and Research Collaboration Strategy:** Canada announced a strategy to strengthen academic and research ties with India, including up to \$25 million in scholarships for Indian students, expanded collaborations, hybrid study centres in India, and more than 300 funded research positions at the University of Toronto. New memoranda of understanding between Canadian and Indian universities will support increased academic exchange and research partnerships.

**What this means:** International collaboration and talent mobility are central to Canada’s research ecosystem. However, geopolitical tensions and foreign interference concerns highlight the need for due diligence when establishing international partnerships to mitigate risks such as intellectual property misappropriation or unintended technology transfer.
- Foreign Interference Concerns in Canada:** Canada’s intelligence agency, CSIS, reaffirmed that India remains one of the primary actors involved in foreign interference and espionage in Canada,

alongside China and Russia. The statement renewed public and political discussion about foreign interference risks.

**What this means:** Foreign interference may target universities through research partnerships, funding relationships, or attempts to influence academic activity. These developments highlight the importance of vigilance and strong governance and reporting mechanisms to protect research integrity and national interests.

- **Defence and Dual-Use Research Partnerships:** Western University partnered with German naval defence company Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems to support defence innovation and research collaboration among Canadian, German, and Norwegian partners. The initiative focuses on dual-use technologies with both civilian and military applications, particularly in maritime systems and Arctic sovereignty.

**What this means:** Dual-use research may have civilian and military applications. Such collaborations require attention to export control regulations, security screening requirements, and national research security policies.

- **Growing Global Focus on Research Security:** Several international developments reflect growing global attention to research security governance. The United Kingdom launched a Trusted Research Security Hub, Australia initiated a national review of research integrity systems, and the European Union introduced a science diplomacy strategy to support international collaboration while addressing security risks.

**What this means:** Governments and institutions are strengthening frameworks to manage risks associated with international research collaboration. These developments highlight the growing importance of coordinated policies and institutional risk assessment practices to support secure international research partnerships.

- **Emerging Technology Risks:** The Canadian Centre for Cyber Security released guidance on security considerations for artificial intelligence systems and drone technologies. The guidance highlights risks such as adversarial AI attacks, data theft, spoofing, and unauthorized system access, and recommends risk assessments, secure system design, encryption, and stronger protection of research systems and infrastructure.

**What this means:** As universities adopt advanced technologies, cybersecurity risks increase. Integrating research security considerations into technology adoption and research infrastructure planning can help protect research data and systems.

**Conclusion:** Global research collaboration is expanding while geopolitical competition and technology risks are increasing. Canada's investments in AI, international partnerships, and emerging technologies highlight the need for universities to balance open research with responsible risk management. Strengthening governance, due diligence, and institutional awareness may help ensure research at the University of Regina remains both open and secure.