

**From:** [EVPSR Office](#)  
**To:** [All Users - UHN](#)  
**Subject:** EVP Science and Research Update: Grants with International Affiliations; Project Agile Education Sessions  
**Date:** July 18, 2023 9:18:13 AM

---



## Coming Soon: Changes to Process for Grant Applications Involving International Partners and Affiliations



Over the past few years, the Government of Canada has taken significant steps to implement safeguards that protect the research data and intellectual property of the country's researchers—such as the addition of research security considerations for applications to the [NSERC Alliance program](#).

In February 2023, [they officially released a Ministerial statement](#) on denying funding to researchers working in sensitive research areas who have affiliations with a university, research institute, or laboratory that is connected to military, national defence, or state security entities of foreign state actors that pose a risk to our national security. With this statement, academic institutions will be required to implement new guidelines, policies, and procedures for **all** research grants submitted to the Government of Canada.

**What does this mean for UHN's research teams?** Across the country, research institutions and principal investigators will be required to follow the guidelines developed by the Federal Government

in alignment with the Ministerial statement linked above for **all** government-funded research programs. Please note also that certain provincial research funding programs have already started to incorporate such considerations in their guidelines, and the US National Institutes of Health and Department of Defense are implementing similar security programs.

The exact definition and scope of the terms described are not yet known—such as what constitutes an affiliation, what is a sensitive research area, and which foreign institutions are considered a risk to national security. The Government is expected to release a policy defining these terms this Summer.

It is expected that principal investigators will be required by the Government to make attestations about themselves and project personnel regarding foreign affiliations prior to submitting grant applications to government programs. The specific administrative requirements are also not yet known.

**When are the guidelines going to be implemented?** The Government has not yet released a specific date for implementation; however, it is expected that the program and its new requirements will be launched in the Fall.

UHN and members of the Toronto Academic Health Science Network (TAHSN) currently have an interim approach, limited to the review of foreign research partnerships, that is already in place regarding NSERC *Alliance* grants.

**What is UHN doing about this?** We are participating in TAHSN's Research Security Partnerships Working Group, led by the University of Toronto, to develop a harmonized implementation approach to the Government's guidelines—work that has been ongoing since the incorporation of research security guidelines in NSERC *Alliance* grant program. We are also working on the specific administrative requirements that will be required at UHN. Moreover, the Government is meeting regularly with the U15 Group to share information and receive input as the guidelines are developed.

In the interim and under certain circumstances, principal investigators may be asked to complete documentation developed by TAHSN.

**How can I learn more?** Stay tuned for more on this important administrative change; more details will be shared as they are made available and as the specific guidelines are finalized by the Government. For more information, read the Government's [National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships](#), or please reach out to [Christine Snidal](#) with any questions regarding these upcoming changes.

## Register Now: Education Sessions for Project Agile



In November 2023, UHN will be introducing a new supply chain operating model: [Project Agile](#). This exciting initiative aims to leverage innovative digital platforms to streamline our research supply and procurement processes. Prior to the launch, the Project Agile team has developed **Procure to Pay (P2P) – Process Education Sessions** for research employees to learn about the new system and what changes to expect.

**WHO:** Research staff involved in purchase approvals and requisitions or any other interested members of TeamUHN

**WHEN:** August 3 or 31, 2023, 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM

**HOW:** Register for a session [here](#)

For any questions about Project Agile, please contact [Zainab Bekkari](#).

Thanks for reading,  
Brad

*To read previous issues, click [here](#) (internal connection required) or navigate to the research intranet > "Newsletters" page > "Research Update" page*