

Research Security Performance Indicators and Outcomes

2025-26 public report

Field	Information
Program	Research Security funding under the Research Support Fund
Administering organization	University of Saskatchewan
Fiscal year	2025-26
Funding reported	\$576,077
Public RSF website	https://vpresearch.usask.ca/initiatives/research-support-fund.php

About research security funding at USask

Research security funding helps build institutional capacity to identify, assess and mitigate potential risks to research security. At USask, this support contributes to due diligence, training, research technology security, research data management, secure research processes and practical guidance for researchers and research teams.

2025-26 allocation by research security project

Project	2025-26 allocation	Purpose
Research Security Specialists / personnel	\$130,000	Support researchers and administer institutional research security processes.
RDM Coordinator	\$130,000	Support secure research data management and implementation of the USask RDM Strategy.
Research Technology Security Analyst	\$238,077	Support technology-enabled research, cybersecurity and secure research infrastructure.
Security Software	\$78,000	Support due diligence and vetting of potential research partners.
Total	\$576,077	

Project performance indicators, target outcomes and targeted outcomes reported

Project	Investment	Performance objective	Performance indicators	Target outcomes	Targeted outcomes reported
Research Security personnel	\$130,000	Support researchers in meeting Government of Canada and Tri-Agency research security requirements, reduce risk and increase researcher success in grant applications.	Compliance, due diligence, education, uptake of tools and resources, proper completion of risk assessment forms and mitigation plans.	Develop internal research security structure and tools; establish a central hub for researchers; minimize risks of loss, theft or espionage; reduce administrative burden.	In progress. The Senior Research Security Specialist and Research Security Compliance Officer served as primary points of contact. The team assessed more than 400 grants, participated in communities of practice, supported classified project readiness, delivered outreach and advanced sanctions and export controls guidance.
Research Technology Security Analyst	\$238,077	Support researchers in research IT security and cybersecurity, in concert with OVRP and the Library.	Number of research security plans with cybersecurity considerations; new frameworks and procedures for IT security and data storage; improved support for data and IT-intensive projects.	Enable collaboration between central IT and the OVRP research security hub; improve processes, secure infrastructure and cybersecurity vetting for research projects.	In progress. USask modernized its campus network to improve flexibility and security, supported researcher infrastructure migrations, enabled micro-segmentation and developed frameworks for research data storage and protected or secret government-level research projects.
Research Security software	\$78,000	Enable fulsome due diligence vetting of partners and support timely grant application review.	Software ability to identify potential risk, meet funding agency and USask requirements, adapt to changing requirements and support efficient assessment.	Provide central due diligence support through the research security hub, support confident risk assessment and reduce administrative burden.	In progress. Due diligence software was used to assess individual researchers for affiliations relevant to the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships and STRAC requirements. It helped the team manage a high volume of applications and focus on higher-risk and complex partnerships.
RDM Coordinator	\$130,000	Implement the USask RDM Strategy and Roadmap and support secure research data management across the research lifecycle.	Uptake of RDM training and supports; engagement from the research community; quality of data management plans in research protocols, ethics applications and grants.	Implement a cohesive, researcher-centric service model; protect research data, processes and outputs; support compliance with funder expectations.	In progress. The RDM Coordinator advanced a coordinated RDM service model, delivered training and supports, and helped implement appropriate security measures for research data. A self-directed RDM course has been completed by more than 250 students, staff and faculty.

Institutional impact example

Research Security funding is the main source of support for USask's research security program. It directly contributed to the development of the institutional research security hub, which provides researchers with guidance, tools, training modules, due diligence support for travel, partnerships and international applications, and links to risk assessment forms, controlled goods, export controls and national research security resources.