

**MEMORANDUM**  
Office of the Vice President for  
Research and Economic Development

**Date:**  
August 7, 2019

**To:**  
Faculty

Research  
Administrative  
Offices/Staff

**From:**  
Lynne Chronister  
Vice President, Research and Economic Development

G. David Johnson, Ph.D.  
Provost and Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs

**Subject:**  
Foreign Influence on Research and Scholarship

The University of South Alabama is committed to international collaborations, supporting international faculty and exchange students, and in providing a welcoming environment to foreign students and scholars at our campus. These international perspectives help drive the University's excellence in research and scholarly activities.

The U.S. Government has raised serious concerns about foreign threats to the integrity of research at U.S. academic and research institutions, that include: (i) diversion or intellectual property to foreign entities, (ii) disclosing confidential grant application information by NIH peer reviewers to third parties, and (iii) failure of researchers to disclose research resources and support provided by other organizations, including foreign entities.

Dr. Francis Collins, the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), issued a "[Foreign Influence Letter to Grantees](#)" and testified to the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee regarding concerns about systematic programs of foreign influence on U.S. research. Dr. Collins reminded the research community to "*disclose all forms of other support and financial interests, including support coming from foreign governments or other foreign entities...in accordance with the NIH Grants Policy Statement, [on] all applications and progress reports.*" Additionally, the National Science Foundation's Director, Dr. France Córdova, issued a [Dear Colleague Letter](#) on Research Protection.

As the University continues to strengthen existing international collaborations and pursue new opportunities that benefit the academic and research enterprise, we ask that faculty remain mindful of the following obligations for reporting international collaborations, sponsorships, and activities:

- Disclose to federal funding agencies all research projects you devote effort to and/or actively participate in – ongoing or proposed – that include any foreign sources of funding in the Current and Pending Support/Other Support of your proposal application or at Just-in-Time. This includes any support of your research activities even if not through University of South Alabama, e.g. supported consulting activities.

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- Disclose to federal agencies a foreign component when, for example, elements of your research are conducted or rely on resources that exist outside the U.S. This may include collaborators, funded students, research subjects, or facilities and equipment.
- Disclose to the university on your financial disclosure form all personal remunerations/financial interests, including stipends, living expenses, and travel paid for or reimbursed by a foreign entity (e.g. governments and institutions).
- Disclose any foreign support of the relevant research and/or collaborations as well as personal financial interests related to your research in all public sharing of research results including journal articles, presentations, and other publications.
- Comply with [US export control regulations](#) when doing any of the following: traveling internationally and attending conferences; participating in international collaborations; working with international staff and students; hosting international visitors; shipping or hand carrying materials internationally; or engaging in any international transactions.
- Promptly disclose intellectual property to the Office of Commercialization and Industry Collaboration and remind your group members to do the same.
- Follow the requirements of the [University's International Travel Registration](#).

Thank you for complying with these requirements to disclose and report so that the University's and your interests are protected.

For questions, contact Dusty Layton, Executive Director of Research Compliance ([dlayton@southalabama.edu](mailto:dlayton@southalabama.edu)), or Gina Hedberg, Executive Director of Sponsored Projects Administration ([ghedberg@southalabama.edu](mailto:ghedberg@southalabama.edu)).

Related Articles:

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Letter, [Foreign Influence Letter to Grantees](#)

[National Science Board Statement on Security and Science](#)

[Inside Higher Ed: We Must Have Both: Bolstering Research Security & Openness](#)