

Total Funding for 2024-2025: \$762,370

Project Title	Institutional Performance Objective	Indicator	Output (investment of Research Security Funds)	Outcomes Reported at YE
Personnel to support Research Security Activities: \$423,420	Personnel are hired to identify risks and implement risk mitigation measures related to research security.	Security risk assessments are completed to ensure appropriate international partnerships are nurtured and maintained. Risk assessment questionnaires/research security mitigation plans for researchers are in place.	Researchers are supported with research security due diligence and risk mitigation plans	Researchers are supported with research security due diligence and risk mitigation plans. A comprehensive due diligence process has been implemented that provides detailed risk assessments to Western researchers working in sensitive research and technology areas (STRA). The process has helped researchers: - Identify projects that meet the STRA criteria; - Identify potential risks associated with proposed partners; and - Identify tools and strategies available to researchers to manage these risks. These processes have helped Western researchers successfully navigate both federal and provincial funding opportunities by enabling informed decisions in the geopolitical risk space. Western's research security program has been built primarily for compliance with Canada's National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships (NSGRP) and Policy on Sensitive Research, Technology, and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC). Our risk identification and mitigation processes have been built with a view to ensuring our researchers can successfully complete the Risk Assessment Form mandated by the NSGRP.

WesternResearch

For Fiscal 2024-2025

Project Title	Institutional Performance Objective	Indicator	Output (investment of Research Security Funds)	Outcomes Reported at YE
Acquire software and software licenses to conduct open-source due diligence searches: \$71,496	Tools are acquired to perform open-source due diligence searches.	Acquisition of appropriate software licenses.	Efficient and effective due diligence searches.	Western has secured access to a proprietary data set offered by a third-party vendor. The data set enables the efficient and effective identification of risks for both individuals and entities with connections to hostile states. Access to this data set has reduced the time on task for an average due diligence by approximately 80%. The resulting increase in analytical capacity has been used to offer other services relevant to research security, primarily pre-appointment screens for visiting research-only scholars and postdoctoral candidates. Other acquired software applications have enabled a digitization of RS workflows. This has allowed for automated record-keeping and archival services, as well as easier tracking of case statuses.
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Costs for cyber security infrastructure: \$267,454	Infrastructure is in place for research data protection for on-premises and cloud storage, servers and networks.	Modern software licenses and subscription services. Security monitoring, network and vulnerability scanning, and ongoing risk identification/mitigation.	Effectively managed and securely stored research data.	Western successfully enhanced its research security operations through the integration of ReliaQuest All-Access with Splunk, expanding monitoring and detection across research and enterprise systems. Centralized log aggregation from core research applications improved visibility and enabled faster detection and response to potential threats, reducing mean time to detect and respond. These improvements strengthened compliance with Government of Canada research security priorities and supported the sustainability of Western's research security operations. The investment also positioned Western to collaborate more effectively with national research security networks such as CanSSOC, reinforcing institutional resilience and protection of sensitive research data.