

Research Security Stream of the Incremental Project Grants (IPG) Program

Concordia University Notional Amounts and Institutional Performance Objectives 2026-2027

Project: Research Security Personnel, Training and Software

\$298,999 will be invested in 2026-2027 to cover the remuneration and training costs of dedicated personnel, at Concordia University's Office of the Vice-President, Research, Innovation, and Impact (OVPRII), that lead the efforts to develop and implement Research Security best practices and initiatives and support throughout the University. The funding will also be used to cover costs related to research security software and subscriptions, participation to training activities, event organization, and outreach activities for the Concordia research community in relation to Research Security.

Performance objectives:

The primary objective is to maintain and strengthen the University's capacity to identify, assess, and mitigate research security risks associated with research funding, partnerships, international collaborations, researcher affiliations, sanctions compliance, export control obligations, and emerging geopolitical threats. Investments in dedicated personnel, specialized due diligence tools, and professional development will support consistent, evidence-based risk assessments and strengthen the institution's ability to protect research activities, intellectual assets, and institutional reputation.

A second objective is to expand awareness and engagement through scalable training, digital learning resources, workshops, and outreach initiatives. Investments in educational content, interactive self-assessment tools, and online training modules will increase the University's ability to reach researchers, administrators, students, and leadership while promoting a culture of shared responsibility for research security and reducing barriers to accessing guidance and support.

A third objective is to strengthen institutional resilience through collaboration with government partners, peer institutions, and international research security networks. These activities will support the development of best practices, enhance preparedness for emerging challenges such as foreign interference and transnational repression, and ensure Concordia remains aligned with evolving federal expectations and sector standards. Together, these investments will preserve and further mature Concordia's research security program while supporting an open, collaborative, and secure research environment.

Performance Indicators:

Indicators will include the number of research security assessments, consultations, and due diligence reviews conducted in support of research funding applications, partnerships, international collaborations, and other institutional activities. Additional indicators will include utilization of specialized research security intelligence platforms, and tools to support sanctions screening, export control compliance, affiliation reviews, and broader risk assessment activities.

The University will also track the number of training sessions, workshops, presentations, outreach activities, and institutional engagements delivered annually, as well as participation levels among faculty, staff, students, and administrators. Indicators will include the development and deployment of new digital learning resources, online training modules, self-assessment tools, guidance documents, and awareness materials designed to improve accessibility and scalability of research security education.

Success will further be measured through participation in national and international research security conferences, communities of practice, and engagements with government partners, including Public Safety Canada, CSIS, the RCMP, and other stakeholders. Qualitative indicators will include participant feedback, stakeholder satisfaction, evidence of increased awareness and understanding of research security obligations, improvements in institutional processes, and enhanced readiness to address emerging risks, including foreign interference and transnational repression.

Target outcomes:

The proposed investments will strengthen Concordia University's ability to safeguard research activities while supporting an open, collaborative, and internationally engaged research environment.

In the short term, the University will maintain and enhance its operational research security capacity through dedicated personnel, advanced due diligence tools, and specialized professional development. Improved access to research security intelligence and monitoring capabilities will support more comprehensive assessments of funding sources, partnerships, international collaborations, researcher affiliations, sanctions exposure, and export control considerations. This will result in more consistent, evidence-based, and defensible decision-making across the research lifecycle.

Investments in training and outreach will increase awareness of research security responsibilities among faculty, staff, students, and institutional leadership. The development of online learning modules, interactive resources, guidance materials, and workshops will enable the University to reach a broader audience while providing more accessible and scalable support. Through a doctoral student internship, Concordia will develop new digital educational content, including recorded

training videos, self-assessment tools, and online learning resources that will extend the reach of existing advisory services and strengthen the institution's overall culture of research security.

In the medium term, Concordia will improve the consistency, efficiency, and scalability of its research security review processes. Enhanced institutional capacity and specialized tools will strengthen compliance with federal research security requirements, sanctions obligations, and export control regulations while reducing administrative burden and supporting proactive risk management. Increased engagement with researchers and administrators will encourage earlier identification of potential concerns and facilitate the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures.

Concordia will also further develop formal governance mechanisms and institutional processes to address emerging research security and foreign interference risks, including transnational repression affecting students, faculty, and staff. This will include the continued development of a multidisciplinary working group and response framework involving key internal stakeholders and external partners such as Public Safety Canada, CSIS, and the RCMP. These collaborative processes will support information sharing, risk assessment, incident response, and the implementation of appropriate safeguards to protect members of the university community while preserving academic freedom and international engagement.

Participation in national and international research security conferences, workshops, and communities of practice will support knowledge exchange, the dissemination of best practices, and the continuous improvement of Concordia's research security program while contributing to broader sector-wide capacity building.

In the long term, these investments will contribute to a sustainable and resilient research security program capable of adapting to evolving risks and regulatory expectations. The University will be better positioned to identify and respond to emerging challenges, including foreign interference, transnational repression, and other threats to research integrity and institutional security. Through ongoing collaboration with Public Safety Canada, CSIS, the RCMP, peer institutions, and internal stakeholders, Concordia will continue strengthening its governance, risk management, and response frameworks.

The anticipated impact is a more informed, prepared, and resilient institution capable of effectively managing research security risks while protecting research excellence, institutional reputation, and Canada's broader research ecosystem.