

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

Concordia University Institutional Performance Outcomes 2025-2026

Projects	Outputs (investment of Research Security funding)	Performance Objectives	Performance Indicators and Target Outcomes	Outcomes reported for 2025-2026
Physical Security of Research Laboratories	Funding invested to cover remuneration costs of dedicated security personnel that support and improve the physical research security of Concordia research infrastructure.	The planned investment was to help further support and improve physical security at the University. One of our priorities for 2025-2026 was to conduct an environmental scan to uncover Research Security strengths and weaknesses at the University and establish a methodology to better plan investments in this area over the next few years.	Specific investments that were made in this area and progress on the environmental scan were possible performance indicators for this project.	Achieved: While no Federal Research Security funding was used for these purposes in the fiscal year, the Concordia Office of the Vice-President, Research, Innovation, and Impact (OVPRII) launched a 'Physical Security of Research Laboratories – Sensitive Technology Research Areas' initiative in early 2026. The proposed project involves assessing the existing Concordia research facilities and identifying where STRA activities occur at the university. We would then implement the appropriate risk mitigation measures and controls. These measures and controls should be risk-proportionate, tiered by research sensitivity, and reviewed regularly. The project was already discussed preliminarily with the Concordia Facilities Management Advisory Committee (FaMAC) at its February 4, 2026, meeting. Tentatively, this will involve assigning a resource at the OVPRII to work in collaboration with Facilities Management, University Security, IITS and other relevant sectors and services to inventory research space per research areas, identify and assess risks, and plan the appropriate controls and risk mitigation measures. The project also includes funding to implement the appropriate measures to a certain extent. Going forward, we will need to plan to have secure zones for high-risk research activities and accommodate future compliance requirements. The assessment phase of the project is expected to identify priority work areas in 2026-2027, for work to take place in 2027-2028.

Research Security Personnel, Training and Software	\$287,868 invested 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, and for research security software costs.	Our Senior Advisor on Research Security has been working in close collaboration with other OVPRII staff, Concordia University's Information and Instructional Technology Services personnel and other Concordia sectors and services to support our various Research Security projects and initiatives. The overall objective of this investment is to significantly improve our capacity to identify, assess and mitigate potential risks associated with research security. This position is key to coordinating our efforts and helping our research community in relation to Research Security. The resource is playing an important role in championing these topics and raising awareness at Concordia about research security aspects. It helps to better equip our research community in addressing these evolving requirements and challenges. Within this project, we also invested funding towards incremental costs in software tools dedicated to research security aspects, as well as some professional development costs for the staff.	Research Security funding supported Concordia University's ongoing efforts to strengthen the protection of its research activities, intellectual property, and institutional knowledge. The funding helped maintain dedicated research security expertise through the Senior Advisor, Research Security position, while also supporting broader institutional engagement, awareness-building, and the continued development of risk assessment and mitigation practices across the University. The various initiatives that stem from the Senior Advisor position are key indicators to monitor the impact of this investment.	In Progress: Key results and impacts for the reporting period include: - Enhanced research security intelligence and open-source analysis capacity: Research Security funding strengthened Concordia University's ability to conduct due diligence and assess risks associated with proposed research partnerships, funding applications, and contractual arrangements. Continued access to specialized tools, including the Kharon platform and LinkedIn Professional, supported more comprehensive reviews of organizations, individuals, affiliations, and potential foreign influence concerns before collaborations were formalized. During the reporting period, this capacity was applied to well over 400 grant applications and research agreements, many of which involved multiple partner organizations requiring separate review. The funding also supported advanced open-source intelligence training. - Expanded faculty outreach and research security awareness: The Senior Advisor continued to deliver targeted presentations and guidance to faculties, departments, research teams, and major funding initiatives working in areas affected by federal research security requirements, including Sensitive Technology Research Areas. These sessions helped researchers understand evolving federal requirements, Concordia's internal assessment and review processes, and the importance of identifying potential research security considerations early in the development of funding applications and partnerships. - Advanced and embedded research security review processes: Concordia further strengthened its internal workflows for STRAC compliance and broader partner due diligence, improving coordination among the OVPRII, Mitacs, and other internal and external stakeholders. Research security review is now more consistently incorporated at an earlier stage of funding applications and proposed partnerships, helping identify affiliation, technology, and partner-related risks before commitments are made. - Professional development and sector engagement: Research Security funding supported continued professional development for relevant staff, strengthening Concordia's expertise across national security, intelligence analysis, research administration, and intellectual property. The funding also supported participation in several major professional conferences.
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