Research & Innovation Advancement
IWK Health

Government of Canada Research National Security Policies

What is Research Security?

Research Security refers to identifying risks to your work - including unauthorized access, disclosure, interference, and theft - and measures to minimize these risks to protect research enterprise[1].
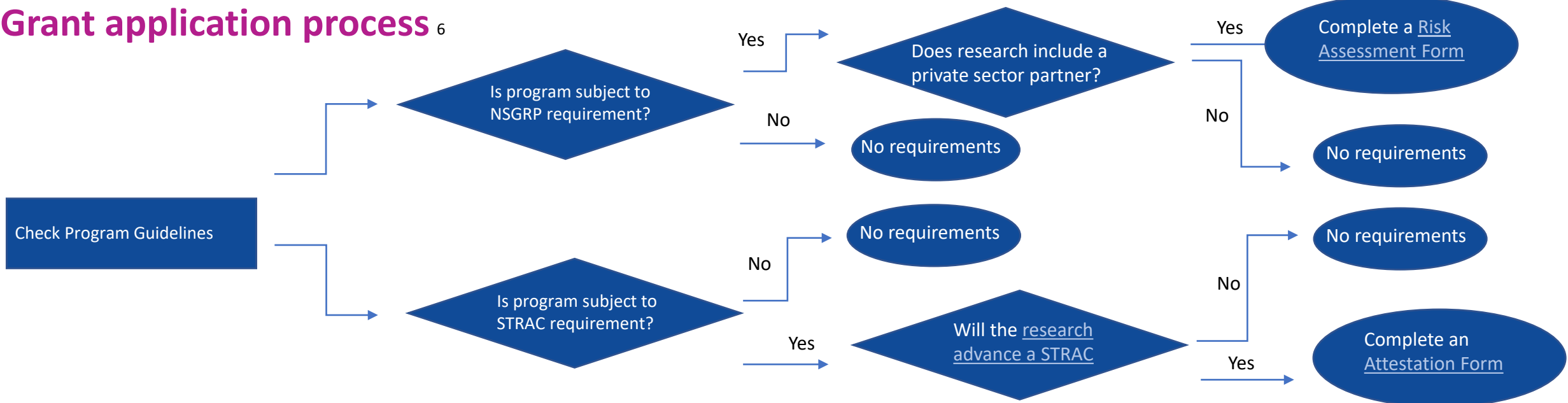
Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (**STRAC**)

The federal granting agencies and the CFI will not fund research that advances a sensitive technology research area if any of the research team is affiliated with, or in receipt of funding or in-kind support, from a Named Research Organization that could pose a risk to Canada's national security[2, 3].

National Security Guidelines For Research Partnerships (**NSGRP**)

Grant applications subject to NSGRP that involve one or more private sector partner organization must include a Risk Assessment Form and a risk mitigation plan that addresses all identified risks to be implemented for the duration of the grant. The purpose of NSGRP is to integrate national security concerns into research partnerships[4, 5].

Grant application process [6]

Check Program Guidelines

Is program subject to NSGRP requirement?
- Yes → Does research include a private sector partner?
  - Yes → Complete a Risk Assessment Form
  - No → No requirements
- No → No requirements

Is program subject to STRAC requirement?
- No → No requirements
- Yes → Will the research advance a STRAC
  - No → No requirements
  - Yes → Complete an Attestation Form

References

1. Science. (2022, May) *Why safeguard your research?* Government of Canada. https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/safeguarding-your-research/general-information-research-security/why-safeguard-your-research

2. Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (2024, January) *Statement from Minister Champagne, Minister Holland and Minister LeBlanc on new measures to protect Canadian research.* Government of Canada. https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2024/01/statement-from-minister-champagne-minister-holland-and-minister-leblanc-on-new-measures-to-protect-canadian-research.html

3. Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. (2024, April) *Tri-agency guidance on the Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC Policy).* Government of Canada https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/InterAgency-Interorganismes/RS-SR/strac-rtsap_eng.asp

4. Science. (2022, October) *National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships.* Government of Canada. https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/safeguarding-your-research/guidelines-and-tools-implement-research-security/national-security-guidelines-research-partnerships

5. Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (2023, March) *Tri-agency guidance on the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships (NSGRP)* Government of Canada. https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/InterAgency-Interorganismes/RS-SR/nsgrp-ldsnpr_eng.asp

6. O'Neill, S. & Rioux, L. E. (2024, May 11-14) "Update on Research Security." [Presentation]. CARA 2024 National Conference, Calgary, AB, Canada.

Links to research security resources

Government of Canada: Resources and Policies

- Safeguarding Your Research: Guidelines and Tools to Implement Research Security
- Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern
- National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships

Government of Canada: Lists

- Sensitive Technology Research Areas
- Named Research Organizations

Government of Canada: Risk Assessment Forms

- The National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships' Risk Assessment Form
- Attestation for Research Aiming to Advance Sensitive Research Areas

Research Council of Canada Program Requirements:

- Tri-agency guidance on the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships (NSGRP)
- What grant programs do the NSGRP apply to?
- Tri-agency guidance on the Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC Policy)
- Which funding opportunities does the Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern apply to?