



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

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# THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

February 8, 2023

## CHINA BANS FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES' ONLINE ONLY COURSES

*Yojana Sharma | University World News | January 31, 2023*

China has suddenly reversed its temporary rules in place for over two years during the COVID-19 pandemic allowing online courses from foreign universities to be delivered to students within China, which is being justified in China as a crackdown on substandard online degree courses. The concession to foreign universities to allow them to maintain their enrolment of Chinese students during travel bans and lockdowns was seen as no longer necessary as travel begins to return to normal in the region. China in December abandoned its strict 'Zero-COVID' policy. The ministry of education's Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE) in Beijing said in a statement issued on 28 January that it would no longer recognise overseas degrees obtained via online learning and urged students to return to overseas campuses as soon as possible. "At present, the borders of major destinations for international study have reopened, and foreign [overseas] colleges and universities have fully resumed offline teaching," the statement said. The CSCSE notice said that for the 2023 spring semester (Southern Hemisphere autumn semester) and after that, for foreign (overseas) diploma certificates obtained by distance learning (including new enrolment and continuing study), the centre will no longer provide certification services.

Read the full article [here](#).

## TWO-THIRDS OF RESEARCH-GRANT REQUESTS SENT TO CANADIAN SECURITY AGENCIES REJECTED

*Joe Friesen | The Globe and Mail | January 26, 2023*

Roughly two-thirds of the research-grant applications sent to Canada's national-security agencies for assessment under tightened rules to safeguard intellectual property from authoritarian governments were deemed to pose an unacceptable risk and denied funding. The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) said it sought advice from federal security agencies on 48 applications for funding under the country's research partnership framework, about 4 per cent of all applications. Of the applications sent for review, 32 were deemed to pose an unacceptable risk or a risk that couldn't be appropriately mediated, NSERC said. Two applicants withdrew before receiving a decision. Only 14 proposals were approved for funding after being referred to the security agencies. The reviews stem from guidelines introduced by the federal government in July, 2021, at a time of heightened concern around the protection of Canadian research interests. The guidelines apply to the alliance grants and alliance missions programs, which are a relatively small part of the larger NSERC portfolio. NSERC, which spends more than \$1.3-billion a year, is one of the primary research granting councils in Canada.

Read the full article [here](#).



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## WHY CONNECTIONS BETWEEN SCIENTISTS ARE GOOD FOR EVERYONE

*John P. Haupt, Jenny J. Lee, Wen Wen, Die Hu, and Morris Hsin-Mu Chen | University World News | February 4, 2023*

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 and with the well-documented disruptions to normal research processes, such as lab closures and travel restrictions, we were eager to investigate the collaboration experiences between United States and Chinese academic scientists. Our goal was to understand how they were able to successfully produce knowledge and what could be learned from their experiences. We selected US and Chinese scientists because in early 2020 they were the two largest producers of articles on the topic, they had collaborated more than scientists from any two other countries and the two countries had ongoing geopolitical tensions surrounding science and technology cooperation. As part of our research, we were particularly interested in the reasons US and Chinese scientists collaborate, how the pandemic impacted their collaboration experiences and how scientists were navigating the securitised research environment targeting collaboration between the two countries.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## NATIONAL SECURITY GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

*Government of Canada | October 7, 2022*

The National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships integrates national security considerations into the development, evaluation, and funding of research partnerships. The Guidelines better position researchers, research organizations and Government funders to undertake consistent, risk-targeted due diligence of potential risks to research security. Domestic and international partnerships are an essential component of Canada's open and collaborative academic research, guided by the principles of academic freedom and institutional autonomy. The majority of research partnerships have transparent intentions that provide mutual benefits to all research partners. However, some activities by foreign governments, militaries and other actors pose real risks to Canada's national security and the integrity of its research ecosystem. To address these risks, researchers, research institutions, federal granting agencies, and the Government of Canada have a shared responsibility to identify and mitigate any potential national security risks related to research partnerships.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## WILL A 'HOSTILE' IMMIGRATION CLIMATE DETER GLOBAL SCHOLARS?

*Jan Petter Myklebust | University World News | February 3, 2023*

Media reporting exposing long delays suffered by international researchers seeking residence permits through the Swedish Migration Agency has amplified concerns that Sweden's hard-line immigration policy, while not ostensibly targeting scientists and researchers, is nevertheless weakening the country's reputation as a viable destination for high-level academic talent and is hurting its research climate. According to an article published on 19 January 2023 in *Universitetsläraren*, the newsletter for the Swedish Association of University Teachers and Researchers (SULF), the application for a residence permit for a student from another European country was rejected after more than 21 months. The report notes that 25% of doctoral or postdoctoral candidates applying for permanent residence permits have to wait more than 12 months according to the Migration Agency's webpage. The situation is complicated by the fact that all applicants must prove they have employment for a period of 18 months from the date of their application, a period that is sometimes overtaken by the length of time taken to process the application.

Read the full article [here](#).



## FROM CELEBRATION TO DESPAIR OVER INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Nic Mitchell | University World News | January 28, 2023

Just as British universities were celebrating a continuing surge in international students choosing to study in the United Kingdom, there was speculation in the national media of infighting between government departments over proposals to reduce the time foreign students can stay in the country to look for work after graduating. A year ago, British universities were in jubilant mood after smashing through the 600,000 target eight years ahead of schedule, for international students coming to the UK to study. Far from being a one-off due to the main rival English-speaking destinations for international students closing their borders to international students as a result of COVID-19 travel restrictions, the first release of figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) on student data for 2021-22 shows the number of international students in the UK increased by +12% overall, reaching nearly 680,000.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## OTTAWA VOWS TO CURB CANADIAN UNIVERSITY RESEARCH WITH CHINESE MILITARY SCIENTISTS

Robert Fife and Steven Chase | The Globe and Mail | February 2, 2023

Innovation Minister François-Philippe Champagne has reproached Canadian universities for collaborating with Chinese military scientists and vowed to bring in new national-security guidelines to better protect cutting-edge science and technology from ending up in the hands of China. "I am not happy and it's unacceptable," Mr. Champagne told the House of Commons committee on science and research Thursday when asked about a report in The Globe and Mail that 50 Canadian universities have conducted extensive research with China's military since 2005. The Globe reported Monday that the joint projects with China's National University of Defence Technology (NUDT) included research on topics such as quantum cryptography, photonics and space science.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## U.S. INVESTORS HAVE PLOWED BILLIONS INTO CHINA'S AI SECTOR, REPORT SHOWS

Alexandra Alper | Reuters | February 1, 2023

U.S. investors including the investment arms of Intel Corp (INTC.O) and Qualcomm Inc (QCOM.O) accounted for nearly a fifth of investments in Chinese artificial intelligence companies from 2015 to 2021, a report showed on Wednesday. The document, released by CSET, a tech policy group at Georgetown University, comes amid growing scrutiny of U.S. investments in AI, Quantum and semiconductors, as the Biden administration prepares to unveil new restrictions on U.S. funding of Chinese tech companies.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

The Academic Security and Counter Exploitation Program is coordinated by The Texas A&M University System Research Security Office as a service to the academic community.  
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