



OFFICE OF RESEARCH & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED
5200 N. LAKE ROAD, MERCED, CALIFORNIA 95343

December 7, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

The Office of Research Compliance & Integrity would like to take this opportunity to share new information and remind everyone of our responsibilities around [Export Controls](#) and [International Activities \(Foreign Influence\)](#).

Foreign Influence: Continued scrutiny of foreign influence on academic research by the federal government and federal sponsors remains intense. We would like to remind researchers of their obligations to disclose to federal sponsors all foreign activities. This includes any foreign support, research sites, components, and affiliations, both paid and unpaid, and honorary affiliations that would typically be listed on a PI biosketch. It is important that researchers be transparent when disclosing international activities. The [International Activities](#) website provides detailed information on faculty disclosure obligations.

Foreign Influence Audit: Systemwide Office of Ethics, Compliance and Audit Services (ECAS) oversaw a systemwide audit of potential foreign influence areas of concern. ECAS performed this audit in coordination with internal audit offices at all UC Campuses and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL). The final report was issued in April 2021. The audit identified opportunities to strengthen policies and procedures related to foreign influence risks with a number of recommendations. UC Merced is actively addressing the Management Corrective Actions that respond to those recommendations.

International Collaborations and Travel: As a reminder, any interaction (payments, shipments, travel, etc.) to U.S. comprehensively sanctioned countries (Iran, Cuba, Syria, North Korea, Crimea), will require a license from the U.S. government prior to the activity. *This may include virtual interactions (e.g. giving a lecture virtually at an Iranian institution).* Likewise, research in a sanctioned, embargoed or other high risk countries (e.g. China) or collaborations involving [controlled items](#) or [activities](#) may also require a license. Please contact the [UC Merced Export Controls office](#) prior to participating in any of these activities/collaborations.

New Export Control Course: In collaboration with the Systemwide Export Control Manager and Export Control officers at several campus locations, an Export Control eLearning module has launched and implemented at UC Merced. The course covers export controls basics and is aimed at the broader university audience. It was created by the UC Riverside Center of Excellence for systemwide usage. The course is available to everyone and can be found on the [UC Learning Center](#) (UCLC) by searching Course Code: ME-UCLOL0063.

Export Control Procedure: The Export Control office has drafted an [Interim Export Control Procedure](#) that has been published to the UC Merced policies website. The procedure aims to meet the systemwide Export Control policy program requirements and outlines the roles and responsibilities for the campus community for activities that may trigger export control regulatory compliance. It will be a foundational document in the growing Export Control compliance program. The final Procedure is expected to be published sometime next year.



New Export Control Officer (ECO): Lastly, in her new role as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development, Leslie Teixeira-Porto has also been appointed the Export Control Officer (ECO) for UC Merced. In her role as ECO, Leslie is responsible for oversight of the Export Control Compliance

Program, reviewing the applicability of export control regulations and/or determining options for export licensing, exceptions, or control plans to mitigate risk.

The UC Merced Export Control office serves as a resource for all UC Merced personnel on issues of export controls, so we encourage everyone to contact us with any questions or concerns that you may have about the above listed topics. We are committed to facilitating in every way the research mission of our University and making sure it is carried out in compliance with all U.S laws.

Please contact exportcontrols@ucmerced.edu or rci@ucmerced.edu with any questions on the issues above or other related research compliance concerns.

Sincerely,

Marjorie S. Zatz

Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development

Leslie Teixeira-Porto

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development