**Survey of the US Institutions of Higher Education about Research Security Training Modules**

This survey is conducted by the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STPI) with funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The goal of the survey is to assess the efficacy of Research Security Training (RST) modules sponsored by NSF and its federal partners. Your feedback will help NSF improve the modules. You will not be identified by name; your answers will be aggregated with others before being reported to NSF. The survey should take 10-15 minutes to complete.

**Please complete the survey by September 30, 2024.**

A few tips before you begin:

* Use “Next” and “Back” buttons to navigate through the survey. You will be able to see your progress through the survey. The last question will have a “Submit” button.
* Once you hit the “Submit” button, you will see the message that your response has been recorded.
* If you leave the survey before it is submitted, your answers may not be saved, but you can launch it again using the same link.
* If you have any questions or need help, please email STPI at **RST\_survey@ida.org**

\*Required answer. Answers to all other questions are optional.

Respondent information

1. Please enter the name of your institution:\* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Which of the following best describes your role? Select one.\*
   * Vice President/Chancellor for Research
   * Head of Research Security, Chief Research Security Officer, Head of Compliance, Chief Compliance Officer
   * Research Security Officer, Compliance Officer
   * Research Security Analyst, Compliance Analyst
   * Training Officer
   * Other. Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Familiarity with NSF’s RST modules

1. Before receiving this survey, were you aware of the online Research Security Training (RST) modules launched by NSF in January 2024? Select one.\*
   * Yes
   * No 🡪 skip to 10
2. How did you learn about the NSF’s RST modules? Select all that apply.
   * Do not recall
   * From NSF
   * From another federal agency

Please list: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* + In a formal communication from your institution
  + From a colleague at your institution
  + From another college or university
  + From professional society or advocacy organization
  + From another source

Please list: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Before receiving this survey, had you tried to complete one or more of the four NSF’s RST modules? Select all that apply.\*
   * Module 1: What is Research Security? 🡪 5A
   * Module 2: Disclosure 🡪 5B
   * Module 3: Manage and Mitigate Risk 🡪 5C
   * Module 4: International Collaboration 🡪 5D
   * I had not tried to complete any modules or uncertain 🡪 skip to 7

Satisfaction with the RST module and plans for deployment

5A. To the best of your recollection, rate your satisfaction with **Module 1: What is Research Security?** Select one answer per row.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Uncertain/Do not recall | Dissatisfied | Somewhat dissatisfied | Neutral | Somewhat satisfied | Satisfied |
| Clarity of the content |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Relevance of the content |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Educational value of the content |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Time to complete |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ease of completion |  |  |  |  |  |  |

5B. To the best of your recollection, rate your satisfaction with **Module 2: Disclosure**. Select one answer per row.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Uncertain/Do not recall | Dissatisfied | Somewhat dissatisfied | Neutral | Somewhat satisfied | Satisfied |
| Clarity of the content |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Relevance of the content |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Educational value of the content |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Time to complete |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ease of completion |  |  |  |  |  |  |

5C. To the best of your recollection, rate your satisfaction with **Module 3: Manage and Mitigate Risk**. Select one answer per row.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Uncertain/Do not recall | Dissatisfied | Somewhat dissatisfied | Neutral | Somewhat satisfied | Satisfied |
| Clarity of the content |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Relevance of the content |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Educational value of the content |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Time to complete |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ease of completion |  |  |  |  |  |  |

5D. To the best of your recollection, rate your satisfaction with **Module 4: International Collaboration**. Select one answer per row.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Uncertain/Do not recall | Dissatisfied | Somewhat dissatisfied | Neutral | Somewhat satisfied | Satisfied |
| Clarity of the content |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Relevance of the content |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Educational value of the content |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Time to complete |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ease of completion |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. What is your overall level of satisfaction with the NSF’s RST modules? Select one.
   * Dissatisfied
   * Somewhat dissatisfied
   * Neutral
   * Somewhat satisfied
   * Satisfied
   * Uncertain/Do not recall
2. Please select the option that most closely describes your institution’s deployment plans for NSF’s RST modules.
   * No deployment decision has been made 🡪 skip to 9
   * My institution has deployed or will deploy its own instance of the NSF’s RST modules, using the package downloaded from the NSF website
   * My institution has begun or plans to direct its employees to complete the RST modules on the NSF’s website
   * My institution has modified or will modify NSF’s RST modules to include institution-specific information
   * My institution does not plan to deploy NSF’s RST modules

Please explain this decision: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 🡪 skip to 10

* + Uncertain
  + Other

Please describe your institution’s plans: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What is your anticipated deployment date for NSF’s RST modules? Select one.
   * No decision has been made
   * Already deployed
   * 2024
   * 2025
   * 2026
   * After 2026
   * Uncertain
   * Not applicable
2. Do you anticipate or have you experienced any challenges deploying the NSF’s RST modules at your institution? Select one.
   * No challenges
   * Yes, anticipate or experienced challenges

Please describe these challenges: \_\_\_\_\_\_

* + Uncertain
  + Not applicable

Existing research security training

1. Does your institution offer training designed to enhance awareness of research security risks and protections other than NSF RST modules? Select one.

* My institution does have non-NSF research security training
* My institution does not have non-NSF research security training 🡪 skip to 16
* Uncertain 🡪 skip to 16

1. Approximately when was your institution’s research security training launched? Select one.
   * 2024
   * 2023
   * 2022
   * 2021
   * 2020
   * Before 2020
   * Uncertain
2. Will your institution continue to use research security training that is different from the NSF’s RST modules? Select one.
   * No decision has been made
   * My institution will continue to use non-NSF research security training

Please explain the reason for this decision \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* My institution will switch to the NSF’s RST modules

Please explain the reason for this decision \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* + Uncertain
  + Other

Please explain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Who is or will be required to complete research security training at your institution? Select one.
   * No decision has been made
   * All individuals engaged in research
   * Only individuals on federal awards
   * Research security training is already required for all individuals engaged in research, including those not on federal awards
   * Uncertain
   * Not applicable
   * Other

Please explain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Please indicate whether research security training offered at your institution contains the following content.[[1]](#footnote-1) Select one answer per row.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Uncertain | Yes | No | Partially |
| Key concepts of research security |  |  |  |  |
| How to recognize situations that may indicate undue foreign influence |  |  |  |  |
| The regulatory landscape that shapes research security |  |  |  |  |
| Federal funding agency disclosure requirements and why they are important |  |  |  |  |
| How to identify types of international collaborative research and professional activities, and associated potential risks |  |  |  |  |
| Strategies and best practices for managing and mitigating risks associated with international collaborative research and professional activities |  |  |  |  |
| How to balance international collaboration with research security concerns |  |  |  |  |

1. Please describe other key content in your research security training not listed above.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Feel free to share any other thoughts about the NSF’s RST modules and/or research security training at your institution.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Concluding questions

1. Please enter your full name and email address. This information will help us reconcile multiple answers from the same institution and will not be shared with NSF: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Are you interested in a short follow-up interview to discuss your answers?
   * Yes

Please enter your name and email if you have not done so already: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. This question concludes the survey. Feel free to share this survey link with your research security team leader or other person at your institution who may have additional information:

https://idaorg.gov1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\_6FFTgFxNXojBNyu

Thank you for spending the time completing the survey.

Your response has been recorded.

1. Options reflect the content of the NSF’s RST modules [↑](#footnote-ref-1)