

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR UNIVERSITIES

ESTABLISHING BEST PRACTICE TO PREVENT MISUSE OF ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE FOR PROLIFERATION PURPOSES

Monday 29 March – Wednesday 31 March
(1pm – 4pm UK time)

In recent years, governments worldwide, particularly those in the UK, the European Union, and the United States and others have expended great effort to bring universities and research institutes on board with non-proliferation efforts. Particularly, we have seen an increase in the issuing of government guidance for universities on measures concerning the implementation of technology controls in scientific and research settings such as from the UK and Germany. In addition, there has been an increase in the number of prosecutions of research organisations for violating export control laws and related legislation such as visa regulations. As a result of those efforts, universities are increasingly responding to the technology and trade control challenge by attributing greater attention and resources to the need for compliance with relevant laws.

That said, there are differences across the national legislation of different states, which frustrate the ease of understanding compliance requirements. The international nature of research means that universities need to be aware not only of their own national framework, but also of legislation in the countries of partner universities. Furthermore, universities are in the process of establishing and improving compliance measures with the various laws and legislation, which creates room to learn from each other on practical implementation regarding issues such as publications, patents, and transnational research collaborations. In addition, new challenges are developing in technology controls, in particular with regards to the application of controls to emerging technology. Such new challenges are exacerbated by differences in approaches at the institutional and national levels, and hence there is a risk of international divergence on such emerging challenges as well. As a result, it is important that universities come together now at the international level to enable the sharing of best practice and to collaborate on meeting new challenges to ensure the adoption of aligned standards globally.

This event brings together university and government representatives across national boundaries. It will expose participants to a range of existing legislative efforts and guidance that governments have in place on the transfer of sensitive technology and explore the differences between different national regulations to understand the different standards expected of universities in delivering comprehensive compliance. It will uncover best practice examples of universities complying with technology controls, from which other universities can discover compliance and risk management approaches that can be embedded into their own processes. Finally, this event will generate discussion between government representatives and universities on how best to approach emerging challenges that remain largely unregulated, in order to propose a common approach with solutions that meet the objectives of both government and universities.

Draft Agenda
Dates: 29-31 March
Time: 1-4pm GMT (London)

Session 1: Export Control, Sanctions, & Immigration Laws Across Jurisdictions

29 March 2021, 13:00 – 16:00 UTC

Export control, sanctions and immigration regulations from different jurisdictions will be examined in an international context. Differences and similarities in the respective national approaches will be outlined.

Session 2: Best Practice in Addressing Existing Technology Control Challenges

30 March 2021, 13:00 – 16:00 UTC

Best practices will be shared in tackling traditional challenges such as ‘how to manage technology transfer risks in scientific publications’ and patents, and ‘how to safeguard transnational research collaborations’.

Break Out Discussion 1: Publications & Patents

Break Out Discussion 2: Transnational Collaborative Partnerships

Session 3: Future Challenges in Technology Controls

31 March 2021, 13:00 – 16:00 UTC

New challenges in technology transfer controls will be explored. These will include how to handle technology transfer risks in emerging technologies and how to address the risk of theft of research and controlled technologies.

Break Out Discussion 1: Emerging Technologies

Break Out Discussion 2: Research & Technology Theft

Registration Deadline: Wednesday 24 March.