



**Office of the Vice President
for Research**

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TO: Members of the University of Iowa Research Community

FROM: J. Martin Scholtz *J. Martin Scholtz*
Vice President for Research

Date: January 30, 2020

Subject: Export Controls

The University of Iowa has a long-standing commitment to advance education and research by promoting and protecting academic freedom and disseminating information in an open and freely accessible manner. This openness includes encouraging participation of students, faculty, and others in research and educational activities without regard to their nationality.

In order to protect the national security and the domestic economy, the federal government has promulgated regulations that have serious implications related to research associated with security concerns and foreign policy matters. These three principal sets of export regulations are (1) the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) implemented by the Department of State; (2), the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) implemented by the Department of Commerce, and (3) sanctions programs administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Controls (OFAC) unit of the Department of the Treasury.

These regulations impose controls over the provision of certain services and access to, or transfers of, physical items, computer software and technical information, as well as restrictions arising from economic and trade sanctions. The regulations also control the transfer of technical information to foreign nationals, even when those transfers take place in the United States (known as a “deemed export”).

Although a majority of the research conducted at the University of Iowa and most U.S. college and university campuses is fundamental research and exempt from most export control regulations, not all research on campus qualifies as fundamental research under the regulations. University research involving technologies controlled under the EAR or ITAR, or transactions and exchanges with designated countries, individuals, or entities, may require the university to obtain licenses with appropriate government agencies or document compliance prior to the start of the particular project or collaboration. *The consequences of violating these regulations can be very significant, and include the loss of research funding and/or federal contracting.*

The university is dedicated to the principles of academic freedom and takes all appropriate measures to ensure its research and scholarly activities remain freely accessible and unrestricted. However, when export control regulations apply to specific projects, the university is committed to full compliance with the regulations and expects all university investigators to be aware of and comply with all applicable export control requirements.

Because the federal regulations are complex and each case presents unique issues, we are prepared to assist the university community in understanding and complying with all relevant laws, regulations, and policies and urge faculty to access the informational tools provided on the [International Engagement](#) web site. Faculty should also freely contact the university's export control coordinators in the Division of Sponsored Programs (export-control@uiowa.edu; 319-335-2123) for assistance in interpretation, clarification and understanding compliance requirements.

Thank you for your kind and urgent attention to this matter.