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## **UW Presidential Memorandum: Prohibition on participation by University personnel in malign foreign talent recruitment programs**

As an institution, we value and encourage international collaboration, with partnerships and projects in over 130 countries.

At the same time, we must be cautious to avoid undue [foreign influence](#), particularly “malign foreign talent recruitment programs (MFTRPs).” Such programs support attempts by foreign entities or governments to acquire U.S. scientific-funded research or technology through recruitment that targets members of the research community. These programs encourage unethical and, in some cases, criminal behavior and must therefore be avoided.

As a recipient of federal funding, we are required to certify that our research community, specifically those individuals carrying out research under federal awards, do not participate in MFTRPs. Given the variety of funding sources and sponsors, and the multidisciplinary approach to research at the University of Washington, **all faculty, staff and other University personnel are prohibited from participating in malign foreign talent recruitment programs, effective immediately.**

The federal Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors and Science Act of 2022 (CHIPS and Science Act) outlines international collaboration requirements. Under this Act, most types of academic international collaborations continue to be supported, including:

- (1) making scholarly presentations and publishing written materials regarding scientific information not otherwise controlled under current law;
- (2) participating in international conferences or other international exchanges, research projects or programs that involve open and reciprocal exchange of scientific information, and which are aimed at advancing international scientific understanding and not otherwise controlled under current law;
- (3) advising a foreign student enrolled at an institution of higher education or writing a recommendation for such a student, at such student's request; and
- (4) other international activities determined appropriate by the Federal research agency head or designee.

These activities are allowed, but foreign funding should be disclosed. Further details are set out in a recent U.S. [Office of Science and Technology Policy Memo](#).

Information available on malign foreign talent recruitment programs continues to evolve. The UW Office of Research ([research@uw.edu](mailto:research@uw.edu)) can help researchers assess whether a specific program might be regarded as a malign foreign talent recruitment program.