



Wilton Park

Provisional programme

Enhancing security to support international collaboration in the Higher Education sector ('trusted research')

Friday 12 November 2021 | WP1999V

To be held online

Context

The UK has a thriving research and innovation sector that attracts investment from across the world; more than half of UK research is a product of international partnerships. Developing and maintaining these international relationships is key to the success of UK research and innovation. The internationalisation of higher education has brought significant economic and social benefits to the UK. The UK government's [international education strategy](#) outlines how the sector's expertise makes the UK a desirable partner for international collaboration. These activities support ambitions to become a [science and tech superpower](#).

Like every activity, there are [some risks involved](#). The Trusted Research initiative was developed to consider how to respond to these concerns while at the same time protecting and fostering an environment that would enable effective and successful international collaboration.

It is vital that universities are aware of these risks and have appropriate and proportionate processes in place to protect themselves, their people, and their individual and collective reputation. As these risks continue to evolve and become increasingly dynamic and complex, there is a greater strategic need to work together and with partner countries by sharing knowledge, learning and practice. Collaborative working across the R&I sector is necessary to ensure that our sector is well placed to address the challenges while preserving existing, and maximising opportunities for new, international partnerships.

In partnership with:



In association with:



Security, Privacy, Identity, Trust,
Engagement, NetworkPlus

This event aims to explore in greater detail some of the challenges and to raise visibility of different approaches already established across the sector as well as to address some perceptions around the agenda by making clearer the responsibilities and expectations of different actors. This approach will enable colleagues to share their experiences, concerns, and solutions, and identify necessary next steps.

Goal and objectives

It aims at the following specific objectives:

- To raise awareness of the prevalent threat to the research sector
- To facilitate the exchange of best practice around pursuing international partnership opportunities while managing associated risk through effective operational processes and frameworks
- To identify and discuss emergent and evolving threats and opportunities and define effective approaches to cross-sector collaboration around the security agenda
- To strengthen the links, alignment and engagement between government and the higher education sector around issues of and approaches to trusted research
- To support the effective development and dissemination of support, advice and guidance

In partnership with UKRI and UUK and UUKi. In association with SPRITE+.

Friday 12 November (Times in GMT)

0915

Participants log on

0930-0950

Welcome and introduction

An overview of the trusted research context and initial responses and actions, to set the scene for the following discussions.

0950-1030

1. Scenario Discussion: incident response

To provide a reference point to inform discussions, the group will examine a scenario that could happen to any institution, with responses and discussions in this session (and across the wider workshop) responding to and building on the situation (Plenary)

1030-1130

2. Breakout discussion groups

This session will see participants discuss a number of specific questions relating to trusted research in breakout groups, in order to understand how participants manage their respective approaches toward these challenges. We will also explore how best to work collectively as a sector moving forward to balance effective international collaboration with the need for open, transparent and secure practices. These discussions will in turn feed into plenary discussions later in the workshop.

All breakout groups will be asked the following:

- What are participants doing within your institutions to mitigate the challenges associated with trusted research? How would you (and/or your institution) respond to such a scenario?

Additionally, each breakout will also be asked to discuss one the following questions:

- Breakout Group 1: How can the HE R&I sector and government work collaboratively to manage the inherent tension between international collaboration and research security, both appropriately and proportionately?
- Breakout Group 2: How do we collectively ensure international research collaboration continues to flourish in spite of these risks?
- Breakout Group 3: Evolving nature of risks – how to ensure the ongoing sector response remains fit for purpose in light of the evolving and ever-changing risks, and continues to mitigate accordingly?
- Breakout Group 4: Where are the gaps, and what are potential solutions to maximise the benefits of secure and effective international collaboration for the HE R&I sector?

1130-1140

Break

1140-1245

3. Additional perspectives and way forwards

Further perspectives on current approaches/challenges, as well as feedback from discussion groups and focus on the 'so what' and the next steps.

1245-1300

Closing

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

This is an invitation only conference.

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