Export Controls

Federal export control laws regulate the export, transfer or transmission of certain types of goods, technology and information to people and places outside of the U.S. and to individuals who are foreign nationals. The University of San Diego is committed to complying with all applicable export control laws and expects its researchers to understand and comply with those laws as well.

Research activities may be subject to export controls if they involve the export of any goods, technology or data that is either inherently military in nature or is dual use. These items can include things such as: computers, electronics, sensors, and lasers. Work related to these areas is considered high risk: engineering, space sciences, computer science, biomedical research with lasers, research with encrypted software, or research with controlled chemicals, biological agents, or toxins.

Export control regulations can also impact travel outside the United States. For example, participating in an open conference with foreign nationals, or traveling with a laptop that contains data that is subject to export controls may require an export license. If you are planning foreign travel to any country that is subject to U.S. government sanctions (Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Syria), such travel may require authorization from the government.

Research activities may also be subject to export controls if the research involves training or collaborating with a foreign national. There is a bona-fide employee exception that allows the sharing of controlled technical data with a foreign national that meets certain criteria. Please see the University's Export Control Guidance for more information on this exception.

Most research conducted at the University of San Diego that would otherwise be subject to export controls will fall within the "fundamental research" exemption to export control laws. Research is exempt if it is carried out without restriction on the publication or dissemination of research results. Nevertheless, the University expects researchers to be familiar with export control laws and seek guidance if they have questions about whether their research is impacted.

Please see the University's Export Control Guidance for more detailed information. [LINK]

If you have any questions regarding whether export control laws apply to your work, research, or travel, please contact the Associate Provost for Research and Development.