

Activity with Foreign Countries of Concern Guidance Document for State University System Institutions

October 2023

Background

In May 2023, the Florida legislature amended [section 288.860, Florida Statutes](#), which outlines requirements for participating in partnerships, agreements, or receiving grants from foreign countries of concern. The amended statute specifies that any state university authorized to expend state-appropriated funds may not accept any grant from or participate in any partnership with any foreign principal based in a foreign country of concern without the approval of the Board of Governors. The Board may approve partnerships or agreements deemed valuable to students and the state university and are not detrimental to the safety or security of the United States or its residents. This guidance document and process applies to any agreements

Reporting Requirements

Board of Governors' Approval

Institutions seeking approval to engage in certain activities with foreign countries of concern must complete a Request to Enter into Activity with a Foreign Country of Concern form. The form must be approved by the university Board of Trustees before approval. If the request is submitted four weeks before the Board meeting, the Board will consider it at its next meeting. Otherwise, the Board will consider the request at the following meeting. To submit a request , email ForeignActivity@flbog.edu with the completed form. See the flow chart below and examples of activities for additional information.

Annual Reporting

In addition, institutions will submit an annual report to the Board of Governors beginning October 1 , 2024

Examples of Activities

The table below provides examples of activities with foreign countries of concern that do and do not require the Board of Governors' approval.

Activity with Foreign Countries of Concern	Require Board of Governor s' Approval
Hiring a foreign principal for academic, administrative, research purposes, or research scholars*	Yes
Hiring an individual who has worked at an institution in a foreign country of concern	No
Enrolling a student from a foreign country of concern	No
Collaborating with a foreign principal on a research project in furtherance of the university's mission	Yes
Sharing data with a foreign principal	Yes
Engaging in a student exchange program in a foreign country of concern	Yes
Partnerships facilitated by third-party providers on behalf of State University System institutions	Yes
Licensing intellectual property for academic or research purposes from a foreign principal	Yes
Licensing intellectual property for academic or research purposes to a foreign principal	Yes
Obtaining commodities originally from foreign countries of concern but stored in repositories not in foreign countries of concern	No

*Administrator is defined in Board of Governors Regulation 9.006, University Personnel Definitions and Compensation.

Approval Process for Engaging with Foreign Countries of Concern

