

From: [Research News](#) on behalf of [FIU Research & Economic Development](#)
To: RESEARCH-NEWS@FIU.EDU
Subject: Notification to FIU Researchers – Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs
Date: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 8:37:43 AM

Dear Members of the University Research Community:

It has come to our attention that members of our FIU research community may have recently received an email invitation from a company based in Shanghai, China and specializing in “providing services and funding options for high-level international talents and experts” and extending an invitation for collaboration. This email is an example of a Foreign Talent Recruitment Program (“FTRP”), which is a program sponsored by a foreign government to recruit faculty, researchers, or students to support the sponsoring country’s interests. See the ORED webpage, Guidance Regarding Foreign Influence and Research, at <https://research.fiu.edu/export-controls/guidance-regarding-foreign-influence-and-research/> for a complete definition of FTRP. Sponsors of FTRP may include foreign nationals, regional or local governments as well as non-U.S. universities. While many governments sponsor FTRPs for legitimate and mutually beneficial purposes, some FTRPs may require or incentivize activities that are contrary to federal and state law, FIU policy, U.S. federal sponsor requirements and core research values.

Some foreign government-sponsored talent programs, referred to as Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs (“MFTRP”), encourage or direct unethical and criminal behaviors. Please see the ORED website at <https://research.fiu.edu/export-controls/guidance-regarding-foreign-influence-and-research/> for a complete definition of MFTRP. **Participation in Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs by any FIU employee or researcher is prohibited.**

The U.S. government has expressed serious concerns about FTRPs sponsored by the governments of China, Russia, Iran and North Korea. It is important to note that **participating in a FTRP sponsored by China, Russia, Iran or North Korea can preclude an individual from receiving certain types of U.S. federal funding.** Although participating in talent programs is not *inherently* illegal, participation in *any such program* must always be **pre-approved** through the FIU Conflict of Interest/Outside Activity process so FIU can assess compliance with federal and state laws, foreign influence concerns and any applicable funding restrictions.

In addition to violating FIU policy and your obligations as a state employee, undisclosed/unapproved participation in a foreign talent program may also:

- Pose risks to national security because of the participant’s obligation to the foreign government
- Result in inappropriate use of taxpayer funds if the participant is awarded a U.S. government grant
- Harm other researchers and scientists by jeopardizing their professional credibility and their ability to obtain future research funding—and denying them the professional and financial benefits of their efforts—if their work is stolen and transferred to the foreign government
- Result in the recruiting of colleagues by the participant
- Result in lasting financial damage to FIU due to stolen information or the inability to obtain federal research funding in the future

If you have any questions or concerns related to this communication, please contact Associate Vice Presidents Robert Gutierrez or Bill Anderson at 305-348-2494.

Sincerely,

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