

UNSW is proud of our global focus, and the benefits it brings to Australia.

The education we provide to students from overseas, our research partnerships and our global engagement all serve to grow the Australian economy and create jobs, while supporting Australia's foreign policy goals through soft diplomacy. Many of Australia's outstanding scientific and research advances would not have been possible without international collaboration. However, we also understand that with the rapidly changing geopolitical environment, UNSW needs to be vigilant against the growing threat of foreign interference.

UNSW is committed to acting consistently with the national interest at all times. Previously, we have undertaken risk assessments and consulted extensively with a range of national security agencies, including DFAT, Home Affairs, Austrade, Department of Defence, ASIO, and DESE to seek their input as part of our due diligence before engaging with overseas partners. While we will continue to work with and seek the advice of these agencies, we're always looking to enhance our processes to align with the requirements of the geopolitical environment and the *University Foreign Interference Guidelines (UFIG)*.

In parallel to this Framework, UNSW will also be reviewing our cyber-security processes, to ensure they are fit for purpose.

**To protect UNSW from foreign interference, and to strengthen our protections against national security risks, we have developed a new *Framework to Counter Foreign Interference*.**

**In summary this involves 8 key steps:**

- 1. Mandatory disclosures:** Annual and real-time mandatory disclosure will be required by all staff, relating to any possible conflict(s) of interest and/ or foreign affiliations. This process is underway.
- 2. Central registers:** Central registers to collate, assess and report conflicts of interest and foreign affiliations (such as under the foreign influence transparency scheme).
- 3. External risk assessment:** An independent and external review of UNSW to assess any foreign interference risk(s).
- 4. Policy review:** Review and revision of key UNSW policies, such as those relating to conflicts of interest, to ensure they are fit for purpose, including compliance with government requirements and to provide high levels of internal transparency and accountability.
- 5. Advisory committee:** A foreign interference advisory committee will be established to provide a university wide point of response and coordination on all matters relating to foreign interference.
- 6. Boosting in-house capability:** A designated *Special Advisor (International Engagement and Compliance)* is being appointed to advise on national security matters, and to liaise with national defence and security agencies. They will be mandated to provide advice on foreign interference risks, to respond to emerging threats and build further responsiveness to the UFIG guidelines.
- 7. Ongoing engagement with national security agencies:** Regular engagement with national security agencies to discuss any proposed or ongoing international engagement, to receive advice relating to any risks, and to seek advice on how to address any risks that arise.
- 8. Further review and consultation:** UNSW is eager to seek feedback and input from a range of relevant stakeholders. To provide feedback or discuss any issue in this document, you are invited to contact our Head of Government Relations, Mr Robin Schuck at [r.schuck@unsw.edu.au](mailto:r.schuck@unsw.edu.au).