



GR-48 IMPLEMENTATION

Awareness Presentation



BACKGROUND

- **GA-48 is an executive order from the Governor of Texas**
 - This applies to all state agencies and public institutions of higher education
 - Focused on “hardening of state government” against foreign adversaries
- **Foreign Adversaries**
 - China (including Hong Kong and Macau), Iran, Cuba, Russia, North Korea, Venezuelan Politician Nicolás Maduro
- **Committee of stakeholders met throughout spring 2025 to develop implementation plan**
 - Website with information and FAQs available at <https://orec.tamu.edu/executive-order-ga-48-information-and-faqs>



SEVEN AREAS OF GA-48

1. Certification that vendors are not listed on an adversaries list
2. No personnel can accept gifts from a foreign adversary entity or travel for TAMU purposes to a foreign adversary country
3. Applicants must attest they are not connected to a foreign adversary
4. Notification of personal travel to a country on the foreign adversary list
5. Ensuring personnel that have access to critical infrastructure can maintain security and do not have criminal history or connections to foreign adversaries
6. The reporting of foreign gift and contract disclosures to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
7. The prohibition of faculty and employees taking part in recruitment programs from foreign adversary nations



ITEM 1 – VENDOR CERTIFICATION

- There is a list of vendors and subsidiaries we cannot do business with
 - Contract and procurement templates include language to this effect
- AggieBuy and Vendor Verify (in SSO portal) can be used to ensure vendors are not on the list
- The university interpretation is that capstone sponsors are not entities from whom we are procuring services
 - However, best practice would include looking at entities in Vendor Verify



ITEM 2 – NO GIFTS OR TRAVEL

- No gifts, regardless of value, from entity associated with a foreign adversary
 - Gifts can be donated and the donation documented if they are received without awareness or intent
- No official travel to foreign adversary countries
 - These are flagged in Emburse and prohibited
 - 15.05.04.M1 being updated; 21.01.03.M0.02 updated
- Employees approached by foreign adversaries must report that contact by updating their annual disclosure in Huron
 - Question included in Huron to specifically address offers of gifts
 - Once disclosure is updated and submitted, RESEC will notify the employee's supervisor and DREC (orec-staff@tamu.edu)



ITEM 3 – NO CONNECTION TO ADVERSARY

- Required attestation that there is no connection or continuous connections to any governmental entity or political apparatus of foreign adversary
 - This has been added to Workday applications
 - This has been added to Interfolio applications (for faculty)
 - Also have attestation in Laserfiche during onboarding (redundant fail-safe)
- Connection to foreign adversary countries includes
 - Formal affiliation or employment (receiving benefits)
 - Immediate family member employed by government or government-controlled entity
 - Dual citizenship with military service obligation



ITEM 4 – NOTIFICATION OF PERSONAL TRAVEL

- Employees must submit pre- and post-travel notification to foreign adversary countries
 - This is a Workday process - <https://u.tamu.edu/ga48>
 - Purpose of trip should be short and direct (e.g., visit parents)
- Employees include anyone active on payroll in Workday , including full-time, part-time, 9-month appointments with continued service, students, graduate students, etc.
 - **Employees cannot use networks while in these countries (including Teams, online drives, VPN, and email)**
 - Emeritus faculty and those not in Workday are not employees



ITEM 5 - PERSONNEL WORKING ON CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- Include “the ability to maintain the security or integrity of the infrastructure” in minimum qualifications of PDs of those working on critical infrastructure
- Monitor criminal history and connections to foreign adversary for personnel and contractors in the above
 - HROE handling personnel and background checks
 - Requirement for contractors included in all contracts



ITEM 6 – REPORTING FOREIGN GIFTS

- TAMU must submit foreign-gift and contract disclosures required by Section 117 of HE Act of 1967 to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
 - DREC handles this process



ITEM 7 – NO TALENT/RECRUITMENT PROGRAMS

- Employment manuals must include a prohibition on participation in a foreign recruitment program by a foreign adversary nation
 - Regulation 15.05.04 broadened to include programs by or associated with foreign adversaries.
 - Huron disclosure process includes a question specific to foreign recruitment programs
 - Disclosure already required for researchers (including GARS) beginning in 2022; requirement for non-researchers (including GATS)/staff in process with anticipated completion date of August 2025.



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THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?

