Stony Brook University

Security & Safety Bulletin for Researchers

Research Security & Safety

The Stony Brook University community has many valuable resources to protect. These bulletins are meant to provide quick facts, best practices, and key University contacts.
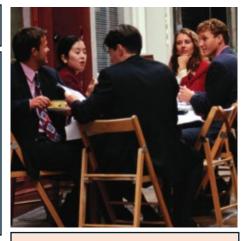
Elicitation of Data

What is Elicitation?

A technique used to discreetly gather information. It is a conversation with a specific purpose: collect information that is not readily available and do so without raising suspicion that specific facts are being sought. It is usually non-threatening, easy to disguise, deniable, and effective. The conversation can be in person, over the phone, or in writing.

How Does it Affect Me?

You are at risk simply because you have access to sensitive information, research data, or intellectual property. U.S. academic institutions – and specifically research institutions – persist as a target of foreign adversaries who wish to advance their own national interests.

Whom to Contact

1: Your PI (Principal Investigator)

2: Research Security Program

ovpr_researchsecurity_admin@stonybrook.edu

3: Enterprise Risk Management

enterprise_risk_management@stonybrook.edu

Tips for Recognizing & Reacting

➢ Elicitation can sound like a common conversation. It can be subtle and difficult to recognize, but the elicitor will always have a specific goal for the exchange.

➢ Be prepared by knowing what information is sensitive and be suspicious of those who seek such information.

➢ Elicitation requires patience and can be small pieces of information collected over an extended period. Avoid sharing personal information with unfamiliar persons.

➢ If you suspect you are being targeted you can change the topic, refer the person to public websites, or deflect questions with one of your own. Always report suspicious contacts.

More Info:

FBI

DCSA