



Foreign Interference Awareness for Students

January 2022



Introduction

In recent years, the Australian higher education sector has seen a rise in instances of "foreign interference". One of the ways other countries attempt to gain access to Australia's assets is through university staff and students.

Recent changes to federal legislation mean that all Australian universities have a responsibility to provide guidance and support for our students.

Our international students are not the focus of this legislation; the focus is on activities that involve international organisations and their employees.

These slides aim to help you recognise the signs of foreign interference and provide you with guidance on how to report and seek support.



Global engagement is a fundamental aspect of all Australian universities.

International students are an invaluable part of the Griffith community. We host a diverse international student body and bring international and domestic students together for their mutual benefit.

We also work with international partners to provide Griffith students with opportunities for global experiences, both inside and outside the classroom.

What is Foreign Interference?

You may have seen media reports around instances where foreign governments seek to exercise undue influence in Australia.

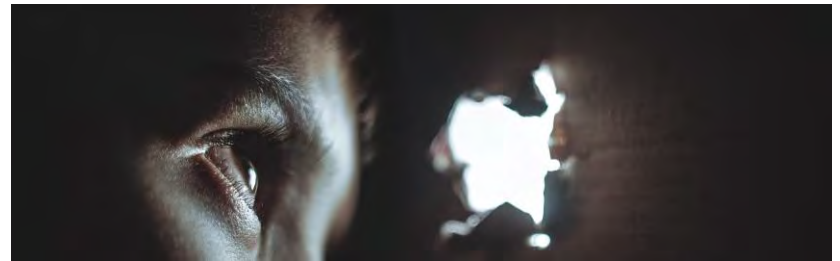
Foreign Influence

All governments, including Australia's, try to influence deliberations on issues of importance to them. These activities, when conducted in an open and transparent manner, are a normal aspect of international relations and diplomacy and can contribute positively to public debate.

vs

Foreign Interference

These activities go beyond routine diplomatic influence practiced by all governments. Occurs when activities are carried out by, or on behalf of a foreign actor, which are **coercive, covert, deceptive or corrupting** and are contrary to Australia's sovereignty, values and national interests.



What do I need to do?



The next few slides provide information about how you can play your part in assuring a secure and productive university culture.

- Be risk aware
- Take steps to be cyber-secure
- Seek advice if concerned

Be risk aware

While the vast majority of foreign engagement undertaken by universities is in Australia's best interests, some attempts at foreign interference may occur, such as through:

- solicitation and coercion of the higher education community, including undergraduate and postgraduate students, academic staff and professional staff
- efforts to alter or direct the research or policy agenda
- economic pressure
- intellectual property (IP) theft
- cyber intrusions



Take steps to be cyber-secure

- Cyber security is essential to prevent unauthorised access, manipulation, disruption or damage, and to ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of information.
- **People** are the first line of Defence in today's cyber threat landscape.
- Griffith provides comprehensive information and resources to keep our staff, students and University safe.
- Visit the Cyber Security Website to strengthen your cyber security skills:
<https://www.griffith.edu.au/about-griffith/cybersecurity>



Seek advice if concerned

Seek support:

isa@griffith.edu.au

Report a concern:

[Reporting a concern \(griffith.edu.au\)](https://griffith.edu.au)

Report a cyber concern:

[Incident reporting \(griffith.edu.au\)](https://griffith.edu.au)



Want to know more?

You can find out more on Australia's foreign interference legislation and how Griffith University is responding at the following links:

[University Foreign Interference Taskforce \(UFIT\) Guidelines](#)

[Griffith's Measures for Secure Global Engagement](#)

THANK YOU