



Proposal Submission



Award and Account Establishment



After Research Commences



Closeout



Why might I need to think about export controls for my international travel?

Although export control considerations most commonly arise in the research context, international travel on university-related business can raise export control issues. International travel can also raise data security and safety issues depending on who is traveling, where you are going, what you are taking with you, and who you will be working with.



What items or information are OK to take with me on my international trip? Can I bring my laptop?

Taking a data storage device (e.g., a laptop, tablet, smartphone, USB flash drive, or smartwatch) outside of the United States typically does not require an export license, as long as the device does not contain: (1) “special purpose” encryption software (software other than standard commercial encryption software that comes with the device); or (2) export-controlled data (please reach out to OEC for guidance on this issue).

Traveling abroad with research-related information (e.g., publications, presentations, research results) would typically not require an export license, as long as the research is available in the public domain or could be considered “fundamental research.” However, certain destinations, such as Iran, are subject to stricter export control restrictions, and a license may be required even for information of this type.



What items or information might require an export license before taking them overseas?

Taking the following items abroad in connection with international travel may require governmental authorization in the form of a license:

- Devices with non-commercial, “special purpose” encryption software
- Devices that contain proprietary or export-controlled data
- Sophisticated research equipment or tools (e.g., Inertial Measurement Units, infrared cameras)
- Defense articles controlled under the ITAR (e.g., certain kinds of thermal imaging cameras, night vision devices, toxicological agents, or spacecraft systems and associated equipment)
- Pathogens and/or toxins, or genetic materials/GMOs that contain or code for them



I will be giving a talk at a conference in another country. Are there export considerations?

Possibly. When traveling to give a talk at a foreign conference, consider the following:

- **Where are you going?** If you intend to travel to a comprehensively sanctioned country/region (e.g., Iran, Cuba, Syria, North Korea), or a country with increased export restrictions (e.g., Belarus, Russia, China), contact OEC for assistance.
- **What are you taking with you?** Be aware that any information and data on electronic devices can be accessed and copied without your knowledge in almost any country.
- **Is all the information published/in the public domain?** Public domain information is not restricted.
- **Is any information you will take with you “controlled” under U.S. export control regulations?** Always contact OEC for guidance in these situations.



Where can I find additional information?

The Office of Ethics and Compliance (OEC) provides [International Travel guidance](#) that applies regardless of destination. For questions, please contact Emily Pender, Assistant Director of Export Control Compliance, at epender@usc.edu.

