

OFAC SUSPENDS KEY IRAN-RELATED AUTHORIZATIONS AFFECTING ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Background

On August 24, 2026, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's [Office of Foreign Assets Control](#) (OFAC) [suspended five general licenses under the Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations](#) and current activities authorized under these general licenses are required to cease effective **September 8, 2026**.

Many activities relevant to the academic community, including educational activities, academic exchanges, certain remittances, conference-related services, and professional and amateur sports exchanges involving Iran are impacted by the suspension of these authorizations.

OFAC broadly regulates and restricts transactions with embargoed countries, and those restrictions are applicable to certain academic collaborations and exchange of research materials and equipment. The most comprehensive OFAC sanctions apply to Cuba, Iran, North Korea, and certain parts of Ukraine controlled by Russia. OFAC issues general licenses in order to authorize activities that would otherwise be prohibited. All other activities and services require a specific license.

What does this mean?

As a result, **all new or ongoing activities and services involving Iran, Iranian institutions, or persons located in Iran must now be reviewed by your location [Export Control Officer](#)** to determine if a specific license for the activity is required. If a specific license is required, the activity must cease until one is obtained. Circumstances requiring review include, but are not limited to -

- research and academic exchanges
- educational programs
- conferences
- travel-related activities
- academic collaborations
- payments or support
- shipments, and transfers of data, software, technology, equipment, biological materials
- individuals holding a teaching position at an Iranian university (including remote or virtual instruction)

Who should be notified and how should they proceed?

Departments and program leaders will need to coordinate with campus/location Export Control Office to promptly identify affected activities, determine whether they can be completed under [General License BB](#) which authorizes certain activities until **September 8, 2026**. Campus/location Export Control Offices will assess whether a specific OFAC license is now required for activities continuing beyond September 8, 2026. Because the suspension may affect existing activities, UC faculty and staff must consult with your Export Control Officer before proceeding with any potentially affected activity or service.

Licensing

If your Export Control Officer determines a license is required, please note that **license applications take 3-12 months or longer** for processing by the federal government, and approval is **not** guaranteed. The license must be approved before the activity can take place.

Please share this alert broadly with your stakeholders.

Contacts

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