



Export Control & International Travel

Do I Need Export Control for International Travel?

Although export control considerations most commonly arise in the research context, other activities by UTEP personnel, including international travel on university-related business by any UTEP employee in connection with their job responsibilities, can raise export control issues. In addition, international travel can raise data security and safety issues depending on who is traveling, where you are going, what you are taking with you, and who will be working with.

What Items/Information Are Okay for International Travel? Can I Take 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 also contain “special purpose” encryption software or other software or data that is “controlled” under U.S. laws and regulations. “Special purpose” encryption refers to software that comes with the device (e.g., encryption that is built into Microsoft Windows operating systems or VPN applications).

Traveling abroad with research related information (e.g., publications, presentations, underlying 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” (e.g., research that is ordinarily published and shared broadly within the scientific community). However, certain destinations such as IRAN are subject to stricter export control restrictions and a license may be required.

What Items/Information Might Require an Export 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, night vision equipment).
- Defense articles controlled under the ITAR that could be used to conduct research (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 that could be used to conduct research.

Get in Touch!

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