

# Consultation on implementation of the Guidelines to Counter Foreign Interference in the Australian University Sector

## Consultations

* Brisbane 22 March
* Sydney 16 March
* Canberra 24 March
* Melbourne 4 April
* Perth 29 March
* Virtual 31 March
* 42 Universities
* 101 University Attendees
* 9 Government Agencies

## Successes in Implementation

* Many universities have reported an uplift in risk management frameworks and development of supporting in‑house guidance materials.
* Many universities cited the Guidelines as a driver of increased collaboration and communication with other universities.
* The Guidelines have increased awareness of the importance of cybersecurity in the university sector.

“The Guidelines have provided an invaluable roadmap to implementing a coordinated approach to the challenge of countering foreign interference”

## Opportunities to Support Ongoing Implementation

* Additional guidance materials and due diligence tools co‑designed by government and universities increased engagement from government with practitioner‑level university staff.
* Further specific advice from government on the evolving risk environment.
* A roadmap that outlines all national security legislation that applies to the university sector, including contact points within government.

## Key Findings

* Over 90% have overarching framework documents, policies, and procedures to mitigate foreign interference – other universities embedded such risk mitigation into existing mechanisms.
* Over 85% participate in sharing resources and best practice with sector or government.
* Over 85% use threat modelling to mitigate cyber risks
* Over 90% provide communications or training to university staff on the risks of foreign interference.

## Most significant pillar of the Guidelines (by investment, ranked by universities)

* 53% Cybersecurity
* 20% Due Diligence, risk assessments and management
* 7% Communication, education and knowledge sharing
* 20% Governance and risk framewok