

# FALLING WALLS SCIENCE SUMMIT



## KEY RESULTS OF THE ROUND TABLE

### “KIWI POLICY TALK: KNOWLEDGE SECURITY IN PRACTICE”



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

*— Keeping research open without being naïve: how to protect people, projects and partnerships without building a bureaucracy.*

Universities face a real tension: safeguarding knowledge amid geopolitics while preserving the openness research needs to thrive. The panel argued for shared responsibility, practical tooling and a culture that treats security as duty of care, not form-filling. So institutions and researchers stay collaborative and confident rather than chilled into inaction.

Across German, UK, Canadian and Swedish perspectives, speakers converged on a pragmatic path: align national guidance with university autonomy. Focus on protecting researchers first, build lean risk processes that filter quickly, and keep academic freedom in view. Security should empower, not control, and must be integrated into everyday practice through training, advice and streamlined governance.

### THE PANEL CALL TO ACTION:

#### 1 — Create national coordination that empowers, not dictates.

Establish a shared platform for knowledge security that provides clear benchmarks, access to vetted insights and common tools, enabling universities to act proportionately while upholding academic freedom.

#### 2 — Resource lean, risk-based triage inside universities.

Stand up small expert teams and simple filters that give most projects a fast “clear” and focus attention where risk is plausible. Integrate checks into existing ethics, export-control and grant workflows to avoid new red tape.

#### 3 — Protect people first through culture and training.

Treat knowledge security as a duty of care: provide proactive guidance, scenario-based training and early, confidential consultations so researchers can navigate sanctions, affiliations and due diligence without fear.

#### 4 — Prevent the chilling effect while raising safeguards.

Adopt proportional thresholds and transparent criteria, maintain channels for trusted international collaboration, and pair controls with explicit protections for open science and academic freedom.

#### 5 — Build capability early and review often.

Embed research-security literacy in doctoral training and onboarding, map institutional risk profiles, and schedule periodic reviews so procedures keep pace with fast-moving technologies and regulations.

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### PANELLISTS

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