

## **University of Sydney response to questions from The Australian:**

We need global collaboration to help solve the biggest challenges our world is facing and programs like the Thousand Talents Plan are not unusual in the Higher Education sector. For example, the Australian Research Council run a number of programs open to foreign scientists to encourage collaboration and in the USA, the National Institutes of Health Visiting Program provides opportunities for around 2000 foreign scientists to train and conduct collaborative research in the US.

All our academics are obliged to disclose their external interests and as we do with any kind of international engagement, we then assess the risks involved based on a number of factors including relevant government regulations.

We are aware that a few of our staff have been involved with the Thousand Talents Plan.

The Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme Act relates to activities connected with political and governmental lobbying on behalf of a foreign entity.

We are not aware of any our staff who have participated in the Thousand Talents Plan undertaking any political lobbying.

We take these issues seriously and this year developed a new set of international collaboration principles to further safeguard our staff and students from any potential foreign interference.

The principles were developed as part of our response to the government's guidelines to [counter foreign interference in the Australian university sector](#) and will help guide staff and students to ensure their activities:

- are consistent with the University's mission, core values and ethical standards;
- comply with relevant laws and take relevant government guidelines into account; and
- are conducted consistently with applicable University policies.

If this paper has any evidence of our staff involved in any matters that are illegal or which could put our university at risk, then that should be given to us so that we can investigate and take any necessary action.