

2) O que o texto revela sobre os impactos do corte de financiamentos promovido pelo governo Trump? Assinale a alternativa correta.

- a) O governo decidiu priorizar apenas pesquisas militares, redirecionando os recursos para universidades com histórico de colaboração com o Departamento de Defesa.
- b) Diversos laboratórios perderam financiamento repentinamente, levando à demissão de pesquisadores, paralisação de projetos científicos e até fechamento de grupos inteiros de pesquisa.
- c) As universidades afetadas decidiram encerrar temporariamente seus programas de pós-graduação até que os recursos fossem restabelecidos.
- d) Os cortes de financiamento foram acompanhados de ampla comunicação e justificativas técnicas detalhadas por parte do governo, permitindo que os cientistas se adaptassem.

3) O modo como o governo Trump conduziu os cortes de financiamento revela uma estratégia mais ampla. Qual alternativa representa com mais precisão essa estratégia?

- a) Reduzir o número de projetos financiados por critérios técnicos e científicos, priorizando pesquisas com aplicação imediata.
- b) Impor um controle institucional indireto por meio do silêncio administrativo, limitando a reação das universidades e dificultando a contestação formal.
- c) Reforçar a autonomia dos órgãos financiadores, permitindo que cada agência suspendesse os projetos com base em seu próprio julgamento técnico.
- d) Estabelecer um novo critério nacional de avaliação de mérito científico, excluindo pesquisas em universidades consideradas pouco produtivas.

Texto de referência Dan Graisto, Jeff Tollefson, Alexandra Witze. **How Trump’s attack on universities is putting research in peril.** Nature News, 24 de abril de 2025. <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-01289-4>

How Trump’s attack on universities is putting research in peril

Scientists have little information as the US government freezes and cancels their funding.

By Dan Garisto, Jeff Tollefson & Alexandra Witze

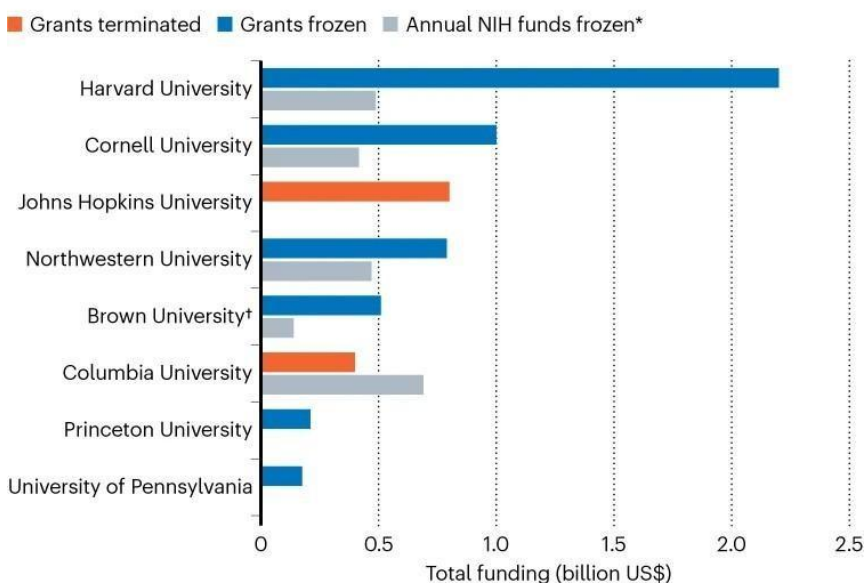
A test for lead contamination in water, a project to measure the oldest light in the Universe and a study of heat and drought’s effects on the brain are all on ice after US President Donald Trump’s administration [halted research grants](#) to several elite US universities.

US science-funding agencies have so far frozen or cancelled at least US\$6 billion in research grants and contracts across a number of top universities (see ‘Science stalled’) as part of the Trump administration’s [fight to reshape admissions, teaching and more at these institutions](#). Such actions have been justified in various ways, or not at all.

The Trump administration has alleged that both Columbia University in New York City, and Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, failed to stop “antisemitic violence and harassment” on their campuses during protests over the war in Gaza. Funding at the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) in Philadelphia was halted, with the Trump team citing a transgender athlete who swam on the institution’s women’s team in 2022 (Trump [issued an executive order on 20 January](#) saying that such activities deprive women of “dignity, safety, and well-being”). The reasons for funding freezes at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, Princeton University in New Jersey and Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, have not been communicated publicly.

SCIENCE STALLED

The administration of President Donald Trump began its campaign against US universities by terminating funding to Columbia University in New York City and Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Since then, administration officials have allegedly frozen US\$4.9 billion in research funds across 6 more institutions. On 17 April, the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) was also directed to stop making any awards to five of the universities.



*Data reflect the amount that each university got from the NIH during the 2024 fiscal year. These amounts probably overlap to some extent with what has already been frozen at these universities. Please note that some amounts represent university systems; for instance, numbers for Cornell University include funds for the main campus in Ithaca, New York, as well as Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City. †Frozen grants have yet to be reported by researchers at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

The Trump team has sent demands to Harvard and Columbia, such as orders to instil more-rigorous student discipline, which it says they must meet to restore funding. [Columbia initially yielded](#), but Harvard did not, and is now suing the administration. More than 200 university presidents have since [signed a letter](#) opposing “unprecedented government overreach”.

Trump and his Republican allies have long alleged that elite universities are indoctrinating their students with left-wing ideologies. The president [signed an executive order yesterday](#) requiring accreditors — whose evaluations determine whether US institutions can receive federal funds — to prioritize “intellectual diversity” at universities. Scientists are now caught in the crosshairs, as the Trump administration uses federal grants as leverage in its fight.

The White House did not respond to *Nature*’s request for comment.

Labs on the brink

Last September, the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded epidemiologist Marianthi-Anna Kioumourtzoglou’s team at Columbia a 3-year, \$4.2-million grant to investigate the potential impacts of co-occurring natural disasters such as heat, drought and wildfires on brain function. On 10 March, she was told that the grant had been terminated.

More than six weeks later, Kioumourtzoglou’s pay remains steady, but her graduate students have lost their income and one of her postdocs stands to lose their funding after June. Kioumourtzoglou has participated in faculty protests calling on Columbia’s leaders to stand up to the Trump administration. “If we lose academic freedom and freedom of speech, what does research even mean?” she asks.

Kioumourtzoglou hails from Greece and has thought about leaving the United States, but she isn’t ready to give up. “Someone has to stay and fight,” she says. “If we all start leaving, then who’s left?”

Some laboratories are already being shut down because of the cuts. When Trump came into office, about 15 people, including political scientist Heather Huntington, worked in a development-research lab at UPenn. They studied topics such as education, governance and land use in low-income countries with the goal of fostering sustainable development. Now, after the termination of several million dollars in grants to the lab from the US Department of Defense (DoD) and other agencies, the lab is winding down.

Huntington has already had to terminate several positions and rescind job offers. By the end of August, she says, only two people will be left, including herself. It’s hard to make sense of the decision to cut the funding, she says. “It’s such a small percentage of the US budget, and it’s not going to show up in anyone’s tax bill,” she adds. “And yet the ramifications are immense.”

The DoD and NIH did not respond to *Nature*’s request for comment before this story was published.

No explanation

Julius Lucks, a chemical and biological engineer at Northwestern, wants to give people safer water in their homes. He has been developing a simple test, which relies on microorganisms’ innate ability to detect lead and can quickly catch contamination in water flowing from lead pipes. The project has been rolling out across Chicago, Illinois, where residents can put drops of their tap water onto Lucks’s test kits to see whether it’s safe to drink. But, on 9 April, he and his colleagues received notice from their funder, the DoD, to stop work on the project immediately. They were not told why their research was put on hold.

In many cases, scientists have received little to no communication from the administration. “They just said ‘we’ve basically stopped this grant, and you have to stop working on it today’,” says David Muller, a physicist at Cornell. Three of his DoD grants have been frozen for weeks without explanation.

The lack of communication seems to be part of a larger strategy. An internal NIH e-mail dated 17 April, seen by *Nature*, says that the agency should avoid giving awards to universities at which grants have been frozen, while explicitly stating that institutions should not be given explanations as to “whether or why the funds are

frozen”.

Muller now has to find alternative funds to pay 4 of his PhD students, and he’s not alone: some 75 other DoD grants at Cornell have also been frozen. They supported research projects such as developing cybersecurity for semiconductor supply chains and improving turbine blades for jet aircraft. “This has effectively been a surgical strike on America’s ability to staff up new high-tech industries,” Muller says.

At Princeton, physicist William Jones has been building a \$7-million NASA-funded instrument called Taurus to study the cosmic microwave background, which is made up of light from the early Universe. Taurus is meant to fly aboard a high-altitude balloon launched from New Zealand, and then circle the Southern Hemisphere to gather data above Earth’s obscuring atmosphere. Jones’s team received a stop-work order from NASA on 31 March, with no explanation given.

Part of Taurus is sitting in a machine shop in Chicago, where Jones is trying to work out how to pay the machinists who have been working on it. Opportunities to launch happen only once every two years, and if the project is delayed by more than six to eight weeks, it will not be ready to launch in 2027 as planned. “We’ve neither been given a reason nor a process for remedying it,” Jones says. “We’re at a loss.”

Lasting impacts

The Trump administration’s attacks on universities could have long-term effects on science, researchers say. Young scientists trying to start their careers while resources are taken away [are particularly vulnerable](#). “That’s the thing that I think is most distressing, is the impact on these young people’s careers,” Jones says.

One scientist at Cornell — who requested anonymity because they have a green card, [a type of immigration document that the Trump administration has been cancelling](#) — says that they are considering leaving if Cornell eventually receives demands from the Trump team and gives in to them. “A very large fraction of us are going to leave,” they say. “The best people will go to Europe. There’s no point in putting up with this.”

The grant freeze will also have major consequences for the public, who will not receive the benefits of scientific research. “Not being able to tell people if their water is safe to drink” is a very real problem, Lucks says. “These are technologies that help people. Everyone should want those.”