

## Common Scams Against International Students

### Housing Scams:

These primarily appear as online advertisements on sites such as craigslist.org. The contact person will insist that you send them money for housing accommodations even though you have not yet visited the property in person. When students show up to the address, the place is unavailable.

### Phone Scams:

Callers say that they are from [USCIS](#), [IRS](#), or another government agency. They seem to have a lot of personal information about you and threaten to have you deported or file a complaint if you don't send money immediately. They may be able to mask their true phone number and may appear to be calling from a legitimate U.S. government agency number. Do not give them any information or follow their instructions. Contact BIO.

### Street Scams:

Strangers may approach you in public and pressure you into accepting unwanted goods or services in return for money. Other scams may involve trying to coerce you into providing money or assistance, or diverting your attention while taking your belongings.

### Phishing Scams:

In a "phishing" email scheme, criminals pose as a trusted person or organization, such as a bank or government agency. They will go to great lengths to make the email appear legitimate, and will often contain links to a phony website intended to bait victims into providing financial account information, passwords, and other information that can lead to identity theft. **Recipients of a W-2 tax form from UC Berkeley should be aware of phishing emails containing W-2 or tax information.**

### Part-time job scams:

The scammer will send you an email offering a part-time job that allows you to earn money while you study. There are various ways that the scammer may obtain money or information from you. Do NOT respond to these emails or click any links therein. See the example email below.

*\*\*\*Beginning of scam email\*\*\**

From: [email redacted]

Date: Mon, Sep 24, 2018 at 9:22 A

Subject: STUDENT EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Dear Student,

I'm happy to inform you that our reputable company, J.K manufacturing company is currently running a student empowerment program, this program is to help hardworking students to secure a part-time job which does not deter you from doing your daily activities, you only need few hours to do this weekly with an attractive weekly salary \$300 per week. Kindly get back to us via this email if you are interested in this part-time job offer.

Kind regards

Mr. Bernard Scott

HR/Recruit Manager/Consultant

J.K Manufacturing Company

*\*\*\*End of scam email\*\*\**

### **Employment/Internship Recruiting:**

Recruitment services can help place students in internship opportunities. Before using one of these services, ask yourself if it is really something you need; you may well be qualified and capable of finding a great internship without using a recruitment service. You may wish to consult with a Career Center counselor to find out if this type of service could be beneficial for you.

If you do decide to use a recruitment service, it is best to do some research beforehand. While many of these services may be legitimate, proceed with caution, especially if they charge for their services. Here are some tips on vetting a recruiter:

- Ask a lot of questions. Will they find you an internship, or will they simply set up informational interviews? Find out exactly what you will be getting, especially if it is a paid service.
- Ask the recruiter to connect you with students (more than one) who have used their services in the past so that you can consult with them.
- Carefully read through the terms of any contract you sign.
- Maintain good communication with the recruiter. If you need information or clarification at any point, ask. A long response time could be a red flag.