

Job/Employment Scam Awareness

College students across the United States continue to be targeted in a common employment scam. Scammers advertise phony job opportunities on college employment websites, and/or students receive e-mails on their school accounts recruiting them for fictitious positions. This “employment” results in a financial loss for participating students.

Here are a couple frequently asked questions about fraudulent employers:

1. What types of messages might be a scam?

- Scammers email or post online job advertisements soliciting college students for various positions.
- The student employee receives counterfeit checks in the mail or via e-mail and is instructed to deposit the checks into their personal checking account.
- The scammer then directs the student to withdraw the funds from their checking account and send a portion, via wire transfer, to another individual. Often, the transfer of funds is to a “vendor”, purportedly for equipment, materials, or software necessary for the job.

Note: Fraudulent job opportunities are often presented as easy and convenient ways to make money with very little effort. The following “red flags” are general markers shared to help you conduct a safer job search and to help you protect your identity. These red flags in no way cover all possible instances of fraud. Therefore, please always use your own discretion when applying to a position or interacting with a potential employer.

2. What type of information should I never give an employer prior to an official hiring date?

- Do not give your personal bank account, PayPal account, or credit card numbers to a new employer.
- Do not agree to have funds or paychecks direct deposited into any of your accounts by a new employer.
- Do not forward, transfer, send by courier, or "wire" any money to any employer, for any employer, using your personal accounts(s).
- Do not transfer money and retain a portion for payment.

Advice: Do not respond to suspicious and/or “too good to be true” job postings or unsolicited job emails.

If you have any questions or concerns about a job offer and/or posting, please immediately reach out to hireuh@uh.edu or call University Career Services at 713-743-5100 for clarification.

If you receive an email and you are unsure if it is a legitimate message, forward the message to security@uh.edu. UIT Security will verify whether or not it is legitimate.