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MESSAGE FROM RUTGERS GLOBAL – INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES

While you are at Rutgers, please use the available resources and take steps to protect yourself from scams targeting international students. Unfortunately, there has been a recent increase in the number of scams targeting unsuspecting international students. These scams can be very sophisticated, oftentimes the caller knows a lot of your personal information and it appears that they are calling from a government phone number. As you pursue your program of study in the U.S. and as you search for valuable employment/internship opportunities, please be aware that these fraudulent activities exist and that you need to protect yourself from them. Exercise caution in your activities – such as paying your term bill, accepting any offer of employment, making payments over the phone, sharing your personal information, etc.

- If you feel unsafe, call the [Rutgers University Police Department](#) at 732-932-7211.
- You have the right to hang up or call the person back, if you feel uncomfortable on the call. Give yourself time to research the caller or consult with other resources before further engaging with the caller.
- If upset/anxious/need to talk to someone, walk-in to meet with a counselor during our [Let's Talk](#) hours or contact [Counseling, ADAP, and Psychological Services](#) (CAPS).
- Always contact the Rutgers Global–International Student and Scholar Services at iss-students@global.rutgers.edu or reach out to an International Student Adviser through our [advising services](#) if you think you have been contacted by someone trying

to commit fraud. ISSS can help you determine if the situation is a scam and alert the international student and scholar community about the scam.

SCAM SCENARIOS

Please be aware that there is a current scam targeting Chinese students. In this scheme, a masked phone number shows the call is originating from government agencies, including immigration offices and the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China. The caller speaks in Mandarin, claims problems with the student's visa, and attempts to convince the student to wire money and give personal information. Please refer to [this memo by the U.S. Office of the Private Sector](#) for details, and for instructions on how to report these scams to the appropriate government offices.

We have also heard from students and colleagues who have been contacted by a few common scams, so we wanted to provide a warning to you about the following scam scenarios:

- Call from an individual claiming to be from a finance or law group and attempting to collect unpaid tuition
- Call from an individual claiming they are from the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS), or local police department, indicating that the student did not pay all required taxes and needs to pay right away or be deported
- Call from an individual claiming to be from the Social Security Administration, and that due to suspicious activity their Social Security Number would be blocked and that they needed to provide some personal information over the phone

In many cases, the caller ID will display a number that appears to be legitimate (e.g. Social Security Administration or Police Department). It is very easy for scammers to edit caller ID to show a specific phone number, when the actual number calling is not from those offices. Remember: the IRS will not contact about tax issues by phone (and local police will never contact about tax issues). Also, no government agency will ever call someone to ask for any form of payment over the phone.

TIPS TO AVOID SCAMS

Keep the following recommendations in mind to help protect yourself against scam and fraud attempts.

- If the caller sounds suspicious - You have the right to hang up or call the person back, if you feel uncomfortable on the call. Give yourself time to research the caller or consult with other resources before further engaging with the caller.
- Don't wire/pay any money on the phone. No government agency, including the Department of Homeland Security, will ever ask for any form of payment over the phone.
- Do not meet up with the person.
- Do not share any personal or financial information, such as banking information or your SSN, to unknown persons over the phone or internet.
- Scammers may know basic information about you and use that as 'proof', however this information is likely easily searchable online. It's a good idea to check how much of your information is public, such as your phone number and address.
- Verify the identity of anyone who asks for your personal information over the phone. Ask for a caller's name, ID badge, and phone number, and request that you call them back or respond through the entity's customer service channels.
- Do not cash checks that arrive in the mail unexpectedly.
- Do not sign contracts without reading them and fully understanding the content.
- Monitor/Change information—bank account, credit card, online accounts, passwords, etc. depending on the nature of the call/email.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Please continue to refer to our [Scams and Fraud](#) webpage for the following detailed information:

- Secure Your Information
- Report Anything Suspicious to ISSS
- Notify Authorities and Next Steps
- Message from the Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD)
- Message from the Office of Student Legal Services
- Message from the Office of Student Accounting, Billing, and Cashier Services

Finally, take note of the following external resources:

- [Federal Trade Commission](#) pamphlets in several languages
- Federal Trade Commission's [listing of common scams](#)
- USCIS webpages on [how to avoid scams](#) and where to [report a scam](#)
- [Internal Revenue Service on Tax Scams / Consumer Alerts](#)
- [Study in the States: Tips to Avoid Scams](#)

- [Red Flags: Identify and Filter Out Job Scams](#) (Rutgers Career Exploration and Success)

By exercising caution and knowing the signs of scams and fraud, you can protect yourself. Remember, always contact the Rutgers Global – International Student and Scholar Services at isss-students@global.rutgers.edu or reach out to an International Student Adviser through our [advising services](#) if you think you have been contacted by someone trying to commit fraud. ISSS can help you determine if the situation is a scam and alert the international student and scholar community about the scam.

Best wishes,
Rutgers Global - ISSS

This periodic update from the Rutgers Global – International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) office provides you with important information regarding your legal status, upcoming programs, and useful resources. Previous updates can be found on our [Email Notices page](#).

These notices are automatically sent to all nonimmigrant students enrolled at Rutgers–New Brunswick and Rutgers–Biomedical and Health Sciences. Most messages, however, apply only to F-1 and J-1 students. We label most messages to facilitate your identification of which messages may apply to you personally. All F-1 and J-1 students on Rutgers' visa sponsorships are required to know the information that is provided in these notices and to follow reminders and instructions that apply to their own situations.

This is NOT a subscription email list. These notices are sent periodically to an automatically generated list. If you are a permanent resident or citizen of the U.S and should not be receiving these notices, please contact ISSS:

New Brunswick
848-932-7015
isss-students@global.rutgers.edu

RBHS
973-972-6138
isss-rbhs@global.rutgers.edu