



**OCTOBER 8, 2020**

**MESSAGE FROM RUTGERS GLOBAL – INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES**

**MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES**

**MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF STUDENT ACCOUNTING, BILLING, AND CASHIER SERVICES**

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Recently, we have received several reports of scams targeting unsuspecting international students and scholars. These scams have become increasingly sophisticated, oftentimes with an apparently government phone number appearing on your caller ID, or the caller knowing a lot of your personal information. As is true anywhere in the world, there are people who attempt to take advantage of international students and scholars, but with a little knowledge you can learn how to identify a scam and avoid falling victim to the scheme.

Please be aware of these common scam scenarios:

- Recent scams have targeted Chinese students, where the caller speaks in Mandarin and claims problems with the student’s visa, or tells the student that they are involved in legal trouble, and the caller attempts to convince the student to wire money and give personal information.
- Call by phone 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 had to pay right away or be deported (usually they ask the student to pay by gift cards – a good sign that it is a scam). Note: the IRS will not contact you about tax issues by phone, and local police will never contact you about tax issues.
- 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.
- Amazon has been the subject of a scam where an email indicates an “issue” with a recent order and clicking on a link in the email takes individuals to a webpage that looks almost identical to the Amazon webpage. Individuals are advised not to click on emails but go directly to login to the official Amazon page and check on orders in that manner.

Amazon also has a page on its website about how to identify legitimate contacts from Amazon via email.

In many cases, the caller ID has been able to show a number that appears to be legitimate (Social Security Administration, Police Department, Department of Homeland Security, etc.). It is very easy to edit a caller ID to say one thing and the actual number calling is not really those offices. Remember, government agencies will usually reach out to students by mail, not by phone, and they will never, ever require payment over the phone.

**Key tips to remember:** If the caller sounds suspicious, hang up immediately. Do not wire/pay any money on the phone. No government agency will ever call someone to ask for any form of payment over the phone. Do not meet up with the person, and do not share any personal or financial information.

Please refer to the ISSS website for more [tips to avoid scams](#), as well as a list of helpful [resources](#) regarding scams and fraud.

### MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

We are happy to assist at the Office of Student Legal Services. All consultations are free and confidential.

1. **Beware of scams and consumer fraud.** International students are a particularly targeted population for scammers and have been subjected to various scams, including by way of one example, auto dealers who are claiming to sell cars to our international students but fail to deliver title, registration or insurance in our students' names. The cases may involve legal issues which could include failure to pay sales tax; no contract to prove ownership; theft of identity; driving while uninsured; driving without registration; and insurance fraud. It is very important for our international students to deal only with reputable and licensed auto dealers. Do not sign a contract for purchase without having it reviewed by an attorney. Do not accept delivery of a vehicle without title and registration in your name. We recommend that you do not purchase or lease a car from an out-of-state dealer, which makes it more difficult to defend your rights. If you believe that you already have issues as a result of a car purchase or lease, see us right away.

Please contact us before buying or leasing a car in New Jersey. It is important that you also understand insurance protection when purchasing a policy.

2. **Beware of signing a lease, or any contract renting property,** without first having that lease or contract reviewed. Please note that although a rental agreement can be oral, we strongly urge that any lease or rental agreement you sign be in writing. Any lease or rental agreement in New Jersey is a binding contract, however, a written lease affords you more protections. Landlords sometimes take advantage of our students, particularly our international students, who do not understand or have familiarity with landlord/tenant law, or contract law here in New Jersey. As a tenant you have many rights, however, you also have important obligations with regards to renting property you need to be aware of.

3. **We recommend that all students purchase renter's insurance.** It is inexpensive and provides important coverage for you and your property. We cannot emphasize enough how important we think it is to purchase renter's insurance.

4. **Please familiarize yourself with the motor vehicle traffic laws in NJ** if you are going to get a driver's license. If you are involved in an accident, always call the police. Do not accept money or promises from other drivers involved, that they will pay your damages if you don't call the police. It is imperative that you do not leave the scene of an accident and always get a police report regardless of fault. If you get a traffic summons, come to our office before your court date as there may be serious consequences to your driving record if you go to court without first obtaining legal advice. There also may be other less severe options available to you that you wouldn't know without legal counsel.

We are happy to assist at the Office of Student Legal Services. Please contact us with any legal questions or problems you may have. To make an appointment, please contact: Attorney Tina Martins Cruz, or Administrative Assistant Lynn Mendez at Phone: 848-932-4529, email: [sls@echo.rutgers.edu](mailto:sls@echo.rutgers.edu)

Web: <http://rusls.rutgers.edu/>

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF STUDENT ACCOUNTING, BILLING, AND CASHIER SERVICES**

International payments can be made online at [paymybill.rutgers.edu](http://paymybill.rutgers.edu), a step-by-step guide is available [here](#). Be advised, if you are not enrolled for the semester, or do not have a balance due, your funds will be returned.

International students receiving a refund for the Fall 2020 semester are eligible to receive their funds either through [Flywire](#), [Direct Deposit](#) or [Online Term Bill Credit Transfer](#). Please immediately [complete this form](#) to specify what refund method option, you prefer.

*Please be aware that Flywire is the only vendor authorized by Rutgers to facilitate international payments/refunds. For safety and security reasons, students should not attempt to make international payments through other third-party vendors or via direct wire transfers to the University.*

Sincerely,  
Rutgers Global – International Student and Scholar Services  
848-932-7015  
[iss-students@global.rutgers.edu](mailto:iss-students@global.rutgers.edu)  
[global.rutgers.edu](http://global.rutgers.edu)

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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.

These notices are automatically sent to all nonimmigrant students enrolled at Rutgers–New Brunswick. 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 Susan Maldonado at [susanmal@global.rutgers.edu](mailto:susanmal@global.rutgers.edu).