



## Identifying Scams and Staying Safe In Your Job Search

As you are conducting your job/internship search, it is important to be aware of fraudulent employers and avoid scams. Review this guide before starting your search to make sure you are aware of potential red flags and know what steps to take to research employers and verify their legitimacy.

### Red Flags

- The opportunity sounds unrealistic/too good to be true. If the position advertises an abnormally high salary without having to work hard, it is likely a scam.
- Recruiters ask for personal information. Fraudulent recruiters may ask for bank account information, social security number, driver's license information, etc. This information should not be requested until a legitimate offer is made and accepted - never provide this information during the application and interview process. Students should also verify that all forms they are required to complete are legitimate and are not imitating legal forms.
- The organization does not appear to be an established business. The business address is a residential space, recruiters are using personal email addresses (Gmail, Yahoo!, etc.) rather than company email addresses, websites appear unfinished or amateur.
- Communication is not professional. Written communication contains misspellings/grammatical errors, communication is inconsistent, recruiters are sending emails at odd hours.
- Recruiters ask to schedule/conduct an interview in an unprofessional manner. An interview is scheduled in a residential setting or location that is not an office space, the recruiter pressures you to move quickly through the interview process, or the recruiter conducts an interview via instant messenger/schedules an interview on a video platform but never turns their camera on.
- The organization asks you to make an investment/pay for equipment. An employer should never ask you to pay for your own laptop/office equipment or any kind of investment in the company. Never provide your credit card or banking information to a recruiter or send payment through a money transfer. If an internship has any up-front fees required to participate, consult with a career advisor to make sure this is legitimate.

### What can you do?

- Research the organization. Look for the organization's website and social media pages to verify legitimacy. Search them on LinkedIn and Glassdoor to find information and reviews from others.
- Search for scam reports on the company. Websites such as <https://www.scamadviser.com/> and <https://www.ripoffreport.com/> will have information on an organization if they have been previously reported as fraudulent.
- Report any suspicious activity immediately. If you suspect that someone is attempting to scam you, stop all communication with the organization/recruiter and report it to the Career Center immediately.

If you have any questions about potential scams during your job search, contact the Career Center at [careers@suffolk.edu](mailto:careers@suffolk.edu) or (617) 573-8480.