



AVOID SCAMS

1

FAKE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL PHONE CALL

A student received a call from someone claiming to be a government official...but were they actually?

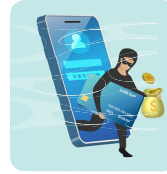


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2

"CAN I USE YOUR PHONE?"

A random person on campus frantically asked a student if they could use their phone to call a family member during an emergency...should the student give them their phone?



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3

DATING APP SCAM

A scholar connected with someone on a dating app and began a conversation after exchanging phone numbers and social media information...but the result was anything but romantic.



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A PERFECT JOB POSTING?

A student received an email about a job posting for a research assistant position in a prominent professor's lab, promising a generous salary for only a few hours of work each week...but the job never existed.



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THIS WAS A SCAM!

1

FAKE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL PHONE CALL



A student received a phone call from someone falsely claiming to be a U.S. immigration official, with the caller ID showing “USCIS.” The caller demanded immediate payment of a fee, threatening consequences such as deportation. **This was a scam—the caller did not work for USCIS.**

- Note: Another common version of this scam targets Chinese international students and scholars. The caller claims to be from the Chinese government or police and alleges the student has broken the law or failed to pay a required fee. These callers can be very convincing and often speak fluent Chinese, making the scam seem legitimate.



• Remember:

- Scammers can use “spoofing” technology to make it appear as though they are calling from law enforcement or a government agency. They may also contact you by email.
- Remember, law enforcement and government agencies will never ask for payment (especially in gift cards) to maintain immigration status or prevent arrest.
- Be cautious about sharing personal information (e.g., date of birth, passport number, Social Security number) with anyone claiming to be a government official or law enforcement officer, even if they know some of your details.
- If you are asked to provide information and payment, contact Emory Police or ISSS to verify the legitimacy of the request.
- If someone claiming to be from a government agency or law enforcement, such as the FBI, demands an in-person meeting, ask to meet at the Emory Police Department. A legitimate official will have no issue with this. ISSS can accompany you if you prefer.





THIS WAS A SCAM!

2 CAN I USE YOUR PHONE?

A person on campus urgently asked a student to use their phone to call a family member during an emergency.



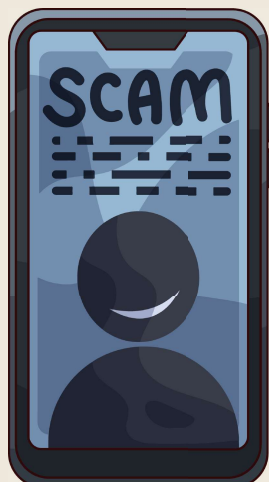
The individual dialed a number, seemed to make a call, but also appeared to be typing and texting on the student's phone.

After returning the phone, the student received a notification that \$5,000 had been transferred from their bank account to an unfamiliar email address via the payment app Zelle.



- **Remember:**

- Scammers often use the excuse of needing to make a phone call or text someone as an opportunity to access your bank's mobile app and other payment apps (Venmo, Zelle, CashApp, PayPal, etc.) and transfer your money to themselves or others involved in the scam.
- Don't let people who you don't know personally access your phone. If someone asks to use your phone, tell them you are running late and keep walking.





THIS WAS A SCAM!

3 DATING APP SCAM

A scholar connected with someone on a dating app and began chatting after exchanging phone numbers and social media.

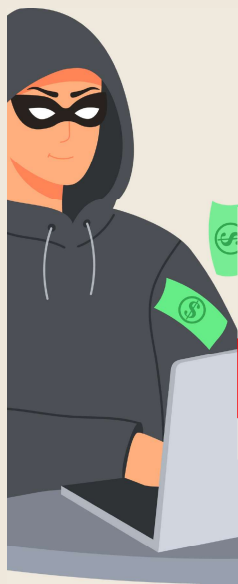


During the conversation, the scholar was pressured into sharing nude photos, after which the other person threatened to blackmail them—demanding \$1,000 in gift cards or they would share the photos with the scholar's friends and family.



- **Remember:**

- Be cautious about what you share online or through texts and direct messages. Scammers often use compromising photos to extort money from victims.
- If someone threatens to release such material unless you send money or gift cards, contact Emory Police or ISSS immediately.



SCAM ALERT

NEXT



THIS WAS A SCAM!

4

A PERFECT JOB POSTING?

A student received an unexpected email about a high-paying research assistant position in a prominent professor's lab, despite not applying through any official Emory channels.



The sender requested personal information, including the student's date of birth, passport, and Social Security card, claiming it was for hiring purposes. They also asked for money to cover a laptop and lab supplies, promising reimbursement with the first paycheck.

Fortunately, the student became suspicious and recognized it as a phishing scam before sharing any personal information or funds.



- **Remember:**

- Scammers often use fake job offers to trick you into giving up personal information or money. If an offer seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- Legitimate Emory job opportunities are posted on official platforms like Handshake. It's highly unlikely you'll receive a real job offer from someone you haven't applied to directly.

