

# Phone and Email Scams

## Important Notice: Email Employment Scams

Students, faculty, and staff at the University of Denver, and other universities across the country, have received emails recently from university email accounts offering jobs as a pet sitter, a dog walker, or to work from home.

Students have lost thousands of dollars in scams about employment opportunities, apartment rental, owing money to the IRS, SSA or USCIS and others.

Remember that most F-1 and J-1 students **cannot** legally accept the kind of employment offered in these scams and unauthorized employment is a violation of immigration status with serious consequences.

Only an F-1 student with an EAD for economic hardship or a J-1 student with written employment authorization for serious economic circumstances can accept this kind of employment.

Detailed information about legal employment and training authorization for F-1 and J-1 students is on the [ISSS website](#) and you can consult an advisor at [iss@du.edu](mailto:iss@du.edu) or by [making an appointment](#).

See the information on the next page about scams and how to avoid them.

# Example of an Employment Scam Email

**PET CARE POSITION**

**Zander Schreiber**  
Tue 11/17/2020 11:44 AM  
To: fitness2-l-leave

Hello !

This is to notify you about an available part time vacancy. Mrs. Brittany Smith needs a part time pet sitter to care for her lovely pet dog for nine hours every week.

She offers to pay four hundred dollars weekly. Please contact (brittanysmith231@outlook.com) for more information. email her with your private email not your school email when applying.

Thanks

Request personal email response

Reply | Forward

•Scam emails come from DU email addresses  
•If you are not expecting an email from this person, it is probably a scam.

•Offers part-time employment  
•Usually with a person, not a company  
•Provide few details about the position

Under **no circumstances** should F-1 or J-1 students respond to these emails

1. They are most likely scams.
2. F-1 and J-1 students are **not authorized** for this kind of employment.



## What is Phishing?

Verb: The fraudulent practice of sending emails or calling on the phone claiming to be from reputable companies in order to induce individuals to reveal personal information, such as passwords and credit card numbers.

## Common Phishing Scams:

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Scams

Social Security Administration (SSA) Scams

If someone from one of the agencies above attempts to contact you, IT IS A SCAM! The IRS and SSA will never contact you over the phone or via email for information.

### Other Common Scams:

- Immigration Scams
- Health Insurance Scam
- Lottery Scams

## Phone Phishing Scams:

Phishing can also take place over the phone. Scammers can "spoof" phone numbers to make it appear they are calling from a legitimate number.



Often phone scammers will be aggressive in their tactics and threaten consequences if personal information isn't shared.

## Protect These Items!

Money - Cash & Savings

Credit Card Numbers

Passwords

Bank Account Numbers

Social Security Number

Current & Previous Addresses

## Email Phishing Scams:

Email scams often come from emails that are familiar and/or from within your network.

For example:  
Emails sent from a @du.edu email address

Phishing emails will request personal information to confirm your identity or solicit services or jobs.

If you have any questions or are worried you may have been contacted by a scammer:

**CONTACT ISSS**  
**iss@du.edu**

Do NOT give out your personal information without first consulting with ISSS to ensure it is a legitimate source.