

In times of crisis like this, it is common for scammers and con-artists to try to take advantage of the situation. **Lately, we have heard of an increase in reports of scams targeting students by people pretending to be ICE officials.** We encourage you to be vigilant of scams.

What are scams?

Scams are when strangers target unsuspecting individuals and lie to them in order to illegally receive money or personal information. Scammers contact people in many ways, but a common technique is to call on the telephone and demand money under false claims.

Examples include:

- Caller claims to represent a U.S. government entity including **ICE, FBI, IRS**, etc.
- Caller has access to confidential information (your name, where you go to school).
- Caller demands personal information (passport numbers, bank or credit card information).
- Caller claims you broke an immigration law and threatens deportation or arrest.
- Caller demands immediate payment.

U.S. government entities will not call you to ask for any form of payment of any kind; therefore, **you should not make any payment over the phone** to anyone who claims to be a U.S. government official. **Do not give out any personal information, such as passport numbers or bank information.**

Always be vigilant:

- Unsolicited job offers via email are always scams.
- Be skeptical of embedded links in email and voicemail.
- Be wary of unsolicited email invitations to click on a file share or OneDrive link even if at first glance it appears to be from a familiar source. Take a moment to note the email address. Consider if it is an unusual request even from your boss, or hover over the embedded link to see if it looks strange.
- If a task or request involves money, buying gift cards or gift card codes, it is a scam.
- You can find more information about protecting yourself from scams [in this flyer](#) and find tips to avoid scams at the U.S. Homeland Security's [Study in the U.S. website](#).

If a scammer calls, you should **hang up**, and you may report the scam in the following ways:

1. Email your [ISSS advisor](#) in the Office of International Affairs.
2. If you gave out personal information or made a payment before realizing the call was a scam, [call the police](#) and file a report.
3. ICE scams can be reported to an anonymous ICE tip line: 1-800-347-2423
4. Make a report on the [Federal Trade Commission website](#) and report the incident to [local and state officials](#)

If you receive an email scam let **ITS Help Desk** know about it before or even after you delete it. Call ITS Help Desk 618.650.5500, help@siue.edu

Please let your advisor know if you have any questions. Stay safe!