



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

SCAM ALERT

Job Offer Fraud

Background Information:

Since the beginning of 2020, UCPD has been seeing an increase in job offer fraud reports. At least five cases have been reported in which students accepted unsolicited job offers from individuals claiming to be UCLA faculty. The students soon discovered that the faculty were being fraudulently misrepresented and that the job offers weren't real. Losses often exceeded over a thousand dollars. Below is a general framework of how the scam works:

- An individual claiming to be a UCLA faculty member reaches out to a student with an unsolicited job offer via email.
- The individual instructs the student to look for office supplies as their first job task and states that they will email them a check to cover the cost of the supplies. The individual sends the student a check via email and instructs them to deposit the money into their bank account.
- The individual provides the student contact information for a "sales representative" and instructs them to send a portion of the money to this individual, who will arrange the order of the supplies on behalf of the student.
- The individual requests that the student send the money to the representative via a money transfer app (i.e. Venmo, Zelle) or by purchasing various gift cards and sending the codes.
- The student is informed by their bank that the check that was deposited into their account has bounced, resulting in financial loss.

Things to Look Out For:

UCPD wishes to ensure that our community is staying safe and informed when dealing with scams. Below is a general guideline on things to be on the lookout for when facing not just this scam, but other types of fake check scams.

- There is no legitimate reason why anyone would send you a check and ask you to send money anywhere in return.
- Take a closer look at the email that has been sent to you. Scam emails are often riddled with typos and are often sent from an unverified email address.
- If you think the email may be legitimate, request some form of face to face contact with the individual, ideally through a video chat. Scammers are often hesitant to accept this form of contact and will make up excuses as to why they cannot agree to your request.
- Checks will not clear properly if they have been emailed and printed out.
- [Federal law](#) allows you to quickly have access to money that has been deposited via check before the check officially "clears." The money showing up in your bank account does not necessarily verify that the check is legitimate.
- Fake check scams can present themselves in many ways. For more information on general fake check fraud, please click [here](#).

For More Information, Please Contact:

UCPD CRIME PREVENTION UNIT

310.825.6111

"Working together to keep our community safe"

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