



International Student
CONNECT



Étudiants Internationaux
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PROTECT YOURSELF FROM FRAUD AND SCAM

FAKE WEBSITES AND INTERNET SCAMS

Criminals can copy a real website or build one that looks professional. Websites may claim to be official Government of Canada sites or one of their partners. Others may claim to offer special immigration deals or guaranteed high-paying jobs. They do this to steal identities and trick people into paying them money.

- If a website claims to offer special deals to people who want to immigrate, leave the website. These claims are false.
- Check the URL address in your browser's address bar when you land on a website. It should match the address you typed.
- Never enter private information unless there is a padlock in the browser window or "https://" at the beginning of the web address to show it is secure.

EMAIL AND TEXT SCAMS

You may get an email that looks like it's from a legitimate organization such as financial institutions, businesses or government agencies. It may ask you for private information such as your date of birth, passwords or credit card details. Sometimes the email will tell you to visit a fake website.

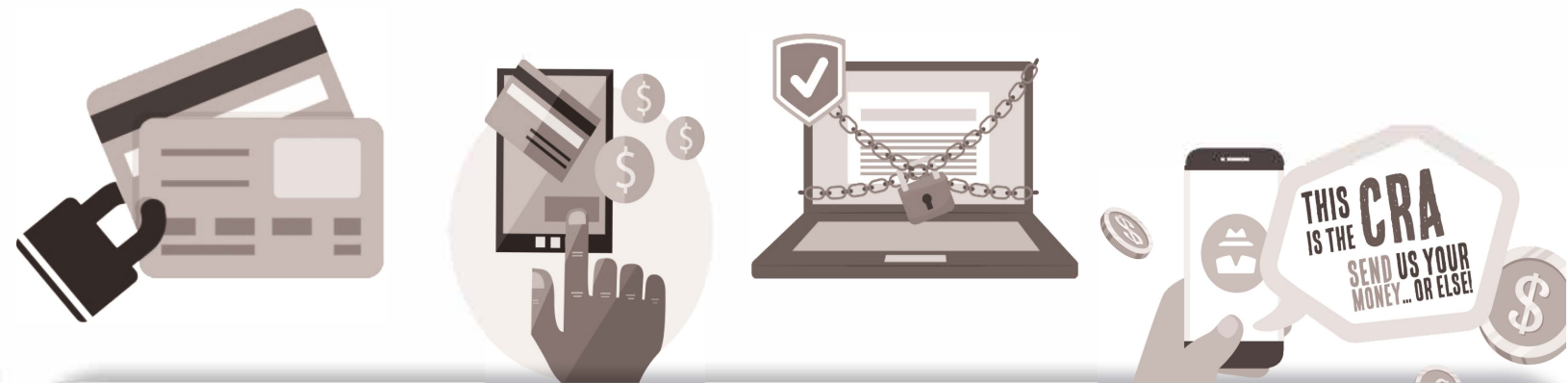
- Reputable organizations will never ask for your personal information through email or text.
- If you get this kind of email, do not click on any links or give any information about yourself.
- If you have any doubts about where the email came from, make sure to check the identity of the sender.

- Email scams are usually sent from a private address or a free web mail address (Yahoo, Hotmail or Gmail) and not from the Government of Canada "gc.ca" or "Canada.ca" email account.
- Ignore and delete communications from unknown contacts and update your antivirus on all devices.
- Do not reply to spam messages, even to unsubscribe, and don't open any attachments or follow any links.

TELEPHONE SCAMS

Criminals may try to trick people on the phone by pretending to be from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) or the police. Officials at IRCC, CRA or the police will never call you to ask you to deposit money, transfer money or offer special deals to people who want to immigrate. They may sometimes contact you by telephone to get more information to continue processing an application, or to ask for more documents.

- People can use telephone scams to steal your money or identity.
- Be very careful of telephone scams asking for details like credit cards, bank account numbers or any other payment information.
- If you get a suspicious call, hang up immediately and contact your local police to report it. You may also contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.



THINGS TO REMEMBER

The Government of Canada or the police will never use aggressive or threatening language.

The Government of Canada will never ask you for any sort of payment by telephone, email or text message.

DID YOU KNOW?

Whether you have been scammed or targeted by a fraudster, you should always report it. Contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (1-888-495-8501) or the Competition Bureau (1-800-348-5358) for advice on where to report.

CRA will never send you an email or text message asking for money or payments via prepaid credit cards, gift cards or Interac e-transfer.

IRCC will never contact you by telephone, email or text message asking for your private information. They may sometimes contact you to ask for more documents to continue processing an application.

The Government of Canada does not send visas by email.

CANADIAN ANTI-FRAUD CENTRE

The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) is the central agency in Canada that collects information and criminal intelligence on such matters as mass marketing fraud, advance fee fraud, Internet fraud and identification theft complaints. To learn how to protect yourself visit www.antifraudcentre.ca

RESOURCES:

Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre:
www.antifraudcentre.ca

Competition Bureau:
www.competitionbureau.gc.ca

Government of Canada:
www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/protect-fraud/internet-email-telephone.html

The Little Black Book of Scams:
www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/eic/site/cb-bc.nsf/eng/04333.html#sec10

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Report fraud, theft and other crimes to your local police department. Forward unwanted or suspicious emails to the Spam Reporting Centre at spam@fightspam.gc.ca