December 3, 2015

Dear International Student,

Some UB international students, specifically those offering tutoring services, have recently received scam phone and e-mail messages. The scam involves phone or e-mail job offers to tutor someone. The victim is then instructed to send money to that person and told that they will be reimbursed later. After the money is sent, the victim receives a fraudulent reimbursement check.

Here is the basic scam:

1. Someone contacts you regarding tutoring services.
2. They communicate with you in such a way that they win your trust.
3. They instruct you to send them money in advance via money order or wire transfer.
4. They send you a business check, which is supposedly to reimburse you for the advance money you sent them. Note: These checks can appear very real.

Here is what really happens:

1. The scammer instructs you to send them money via money order or wire transfer.
2. Once the scammer receives the money, they send a bad check to reimburse you.
3. The check bounces. Your bank informs you a few weeks after you deposit the check that it didn't clear.
4. Result: If you followed the scammer's instructions to send money to someone, you sent them your money and are never reimbursed.

AS ALWAYS, BE ALERT TO SCAMS. DELETE SUCH MESSAGES IMMEDIATELY. DO NOT RESPOND TO THEM.

Tips on how to Protect Yourself from this Scam:

1. If a job offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
2. Never accept a job that requires you to send money in advance or to deposit funds into your account and then wire money to different accounts.
3. Never provide credentials of any kind such as bank account information, login names, passwords, or any other identifying information in response to a recruitment e-mail.

Best regards,
Ellen Dussourd