

ISSS WARNING: CHECK SCAMS, ADVERTISEMENT SCAMS, ETC.

March 28, 2007

Dear International Students, Scholars and Employees,

We would like to warn you about giving cash to another person in exchange for a personal check. These situations are often scams so please beware any time you encounter such a situation.

Here are two examples of check scams:

1) A person approaches you and claims to have money in the bank which s/he cannot access. The person requests cash in exchange for a personal check. You give the person cash. Days later, you learn from your bank that the person's check is bad (ie. there is no money in the person's checking account) so you can't cash the check.

2) You advertise a room for rent in the newspaper. A person contacts you indicating that s/he wants to rent the room and sends you a check for the deposit. S/He then changes his/her mind and asks you for a refund of the deposit OR s/he sends you a check for more money than the rent and then asks you to send the difference to him/her. You send the refund. Then you find out from your bank that the person's check was bad so you lost the money. **At the bottom of the e-mail message, you will find an example of this type of scam. It was sent this week to someone at UB who had advertised a room for rent.**

These are two examples of how check scams can occur, but there are many others. **Please be wary of anyone who wants cash from you in exchange for a check. UB students have been victimized by these types of scams. We don't want it to happen to you!**

Sincerely,
Ellen Dussourd

----- Forwarded message from francis brown <franbrown_aa@yahoo.com> -----
From: francis brown <franbrown_aa@yahoo.com>
To:
Subject: Re: I need your room or apartment for my niece
Date: Mon, 26 Mar 2007 01:47:11 -0700 (PDT)

Hello Niti,

Thanks for your response. The apartment is okay by me, she will be in staying for six months with option of extending it. My niece's name

is Cynthia Smart and she is 26 years old Medical student of Universty of East London.she is responsible,neat,non-smoker and easy going,doesnt make too much friend.I want to pay for two months upfront before her arrival.I will instruct my travelling agent in US to send you a US cashier check of \$4000 which he will write payable to your name which is cashable in your bank.I am sending you that much money because my mum is very sick and will undergo surgery at the moment and i need to go out of town to take care of her and I need to go with all the money i have with me because i dont know how much money am going to spend for her hospital bills and take care of neccessary things because i don't want her to die now.

The cashier check is for US which is cashable at your bank and its not cashable here in UK.I made promise to my niece early this year that if she performs very well in her Final year exams in the University that am going to send her to the US for her vacation. She has performed very well and i dont want to dissapoint her and when she gets there she is going to look for a work to do.So as soon as you receive the cashier check,take them to the bank and cash it,remove payment for two months.Send the balance to my traveling agent in US through western union money transfer so that he can assist my niece to buy her flight ticket and buy necessary things she will need because i will be away from town to take care of my mum because she is sick at the moment.

My niece has no problem sharing apartment with either a male, female or pets around.Send me your full name, address and phone number so that i can instruct my agent to write the check payable to your name.Hope to hear from you as soon as possible so that i can instruct my agent to send the check to you before i leave town to my mum's place.Please join me in praying for my mum.

Regards,
Francis Brown