

Students: There appear to be more job scams going around. They have not come to me but students have reported them to me. Here are some things to keep in mind:

- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Personal assistant and dog walker jobs are often scams. Check with me if in doubt.
- A legitimate employer is not likely to contact you out of the blue except in rare instances of very hard to fill fields such as computer science.
- A legitimate employer will never ask you for personal information such as SS# or Driver's License or birthday until the final stage of the hiring process.
- A local employer will often use a third part recruiter (headhunter) but they will not interview you in written format without some prior contact and most will interview you in person.
- Long distance employers do use written format interviews but will never "hire" you based on one written interview.
- I try very hard to identify scammers but sometimes it is very difficult to tell until they start interviewing you and something seems off. If ever there is a question, please contact me before following up on the job. If I don't know whether it is a scam, I will research it for you.
- Legitimate employers will usually use an email address with their company on it. (for example, the Olympic email from January would have used the United States Olympic Committee, USOC).
- Look at the email address the message was sent from. If it is a KWC email address, that address has likely been hijacked unless there is a message explaining that the message has been shared.
- If the organization seems to be real but you aren't sure if the person contacting you actually works for them, call the organization and ask. They will want to know that they are being used as part of a scam.

If you have applied for something that seems off and have provided personal information.

- File a police report.
- File a fraud alert with the credit bureaus <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0275-place-fraud-alert>
- Contact your bank and credit card company.
- If you have not already done so, tell me about the scam. I may not know about it. That way I can look into it and alert others.
- Report it to IT by using the blue "Phish Alert" button just above the email text on the left side.

It is sad that we have to worry about these things but job scams are becoming more and more common and harder to catch. Since many of you will find job opportunities from multiple sources, just follow the rule of thumb not to provide any personal information without having personal contact with an employer and research any and all employers before applying. Be particularly cautious if the job has you working for an individual as that makes it harder to research. Also keep in mind that the old adage "if it sounds too good to be true, it probably isn't" is still a good rule of thumb. I am happy to help with this process, regardless of where you found the job.

Deb