

Tips to Avoiding Job Scams

Job scams exist as another way that scammers deceive individuals into giving away personal information and money by pretending to offer legitimate employment opportunities. These scams can be presented in many different forms. Below, we will discuss common characteristics and types of job scams. Additionally, we will discuss how to avoid job scams.

Common Characteristics of a Job Scam

Below are some common characteristics you should look for when you are being approached or looking for jobs.

- **Unrealistic Job Offers**
 - If a job promises too high of a salary or if the position seems too good to be true. It's always a good idea to compare the offer to similar jobs in the industry to compare salary or expectations.
- **Request for Personal Information**
 - Early in the application process, it is likely a scam if they ask for sensitive information like Social Security numbers, bank account details, or credit cards. Never share your banking information or other identity documents until you are certain you are speaking with a legitimate business, have completed an interview, and received a formal job offer in writing.
- **They Indicate There are Fees or They Ask For Money**
 - If the person trying to hire is requiring candidates to pay fees for application processing, training materials, or other expenses, this may be a good indication of fraud.
- **Lack of Professionalism**
 - A good indicator of a scam is if they share a poorly written job description, if an email address seems unrelated to the company, and if they contact you at strange hours.
- **Pressure Tactics**
 - If a company is urging you to decide without proper time for consideration. Often, they will even threaten the loss of the opportunity if you delay.
- **Vague or Unverifiable Information**
 - Look up the company! If they lack a physical address or valid contact details, or if the company cannot be verified through reliable sources, it's likely a scam.

Types of Job Scams

There are many tactics that scammers will utilise as methods of deception. Below are some common techniques that scammers may use to connect with you:

- **Phishing Scams:** Scammers pose as legitimate employers to obtain personal information or login credentials by pretending to offer jobs. Phishing scams can present themselves through email and phone calls — be aware of which potential employers you have shared your information with.
- **Data Entry Scams:** Offering data entry or similar remote jobs with promises of high pay but requiring an initial fee or investment in software.

- Posting or Sharing Fake Job Listings: Scammers will create fake job ads, often with fake credentials. Be aware of how any contact info presents itself.

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Avoiding job scams can seem intimidating. However, staying vigilant may help you avoid possible job scams:

- Research the Company:
 - We recommend that you visit the company's website to verify if it's legitimate.
 - Online reviews may also be a good indicator if the company is real.
 - If the company doesn't have a physical address, email, or telephone number, be wary!
- Verify Job Listings:
 - Be mindful of if you find a job posting on social media or through obscure websites.
- Check the Email Address:
 - Communication from real companies will typically come from a corporate email address. This will typically look like "name@company.com".
 - Be wary of email addresses that don't have any ties to a company or if it's from an obscure email domain.
- Be Wary of Abnormal Asks:
 - If a company is asking you to provide personal information early in the application process, be wary!
 - Asks about your Social Security number or bank details should be a red flag.
 - Additionally, be cautious of employers who ask for money transfers.
- Look for Red Flags:
 - If a job or job offer seems too good to be true, it probably is!
- Consult with Others:
 - If you are feeling suspicious, discuss it with friends, family, or someone you trust.
 - This can provide you with a fresh perspective and alert you to any red flags you may have missed.

By remaining vigilant, you can reduce the risk of falling victim to job scams and make more informed decisions during your job search.