**What does a job offer scam look like?**

Job offer scams typically work like this: someone contacts you, usually by email, and invites you to apply for or start a job. These job offers are almost always unsolicited—meaning you never applied or interviewed for the job. In some cases, the scam starts with someone offering to help you with your resume or find a placement in a job. The email will look like it originates from an etsu.edu email but if you look close, it will end in something like .gmail, .com, or something other than our etsu.edu

There are many different kinds of scams. On the [Federal Trade Commission (FTC) website](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/12/hey-college-students-have-you-seen-scam), you can read about a common scam targeting college students, where you are offered a position as an assistant, you are sent a fake check and asked to handle, transfer, or spend the money for seemingly legitimate purposes like ordering office or pet supplies. But the money is an illusion. Although you will receive a check, that check will be for several thousand dollars and you are asked to deposit the check into your account. You will then be instructed to keep your pay (between $400 and $500 typically) and then obtain gift card or some other type of transaction to return the extra funds. Depending on how you are directed to use the money, you could even be charged with a crime like money laundering or credit card fraud.

Many college students are anxious about finding a job, and these scams use tactics meant to trigger those anxieties. If someone contacts you with an unexpected job offer, here are some things to look for to determine if it’s a scam.

**Scams are too good to be true**

One scam email from “Terry White” (no company listed) encourages you to “Work 4-8 hours weekly and get paid $250.” That’s $31.25 an hour—not bad for an entry-level position you were chosen randomly for.

Job offer scams entice with unbelievably good pay for very easy work—something that just isn’t that common in the real job market.

**Scams have spelling and grammar errors**

Emails from reputable companies will, at a minimum, have little or no spelling or grammar errors. An abundance of errors in spelling or grammar is a definite red flag.

The following are all quotes from real job offer scams:

* “Accompanied by **an attractive wages** and **a reasonable working hours** per week.”
* “Do not need a transportable mechanism as **all needed task** can be done online.”
* “Receive detailed invoice showing **all products ordered for are correct** and in place.”

**Stay safe!**

When in doubt, look for these signs, and use your best judgement.

Students should remain skeptical, and do their research.

Verify the offer by contacting the company directly. Look them up online. Don’t use the number or email address from the email. Look for a contact in HR, call them up and ask if this is a legitimate job offer.