



Scams and Frauds

Since the global pandemic has hit, criminals are taking the opportunity to devise more ways to take your money. Be aware of the ways that you may be targeted and ensure that you keep your money safe.

Scams can be very sophisticated and take many forms. What they have in common is that they're all trying to get hold of your money, usually by attempting to obtain your personal information or persuading you to hand over your cash. Fraudsters may use cold calling and high-pressured sales techniques to convince you to invest in worthless, cloned, or non-existent items, including cryptocurrencies. They will claim the opportunity is time limited so that you have to act quickly, with little time to consider or investigate further.

These scams may also be promoted on social media with an almost too-good-to-be-true outcome if you invest your money. They may use fake celebrity endorsement to draw you in.

Things to consider:

- Unsolicited cold calling about investment opportunities is illegal – if you have received a cold call, this could be a sign that you are being solicited to pay into a scam.
- Cryptocurrencies are not regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority so you are completely unprotected, if you lose money it will not be returned to you.
- Email confirmations and websites may look official but it doesn't mean they are genuine.
- Legitimate investment companies are listed on the FCA's Financial Services Register. You should always check before committing to investing any funds.
- Never download any suspicious software that allows people to access your device

Remember, if something sounds too good to be true – it probably is!

Scams targeting international students

There have been a number of scams targeting international students across the UK, including:

- Callers pretending to be from the Home Office or the Police. See here for full details to protect yourself: www.nottingham.ac.uk/currentstudents/news/beware-of-visa-scams
- Tuition Fee scams, where a person offers to pay the students' tuition fees at a discounted rate or favourable conversion rate

Please remember:

- The Home Office and police will never call an international student to request payments or ask for personal details
- You should only ever pay your tuition fees directly to the University

The [Visa and Immigration Team](#) and [Students' Union Advice](#) can provide further advice and support, and help you determine if a call is genuine.



Useful links

For more information about scams and frauds please see the links below:

moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/articles/beginners-guide-to-scams

nottingham.ac.uk/it-services/security/phishing-emails.aspx

su.nottingham.ac.uk/advice/money

actionfraud.police.uk/

fca.org.uk/firms/financial-services-register

nottingham.ac.uk/student-services/support/financialsupport/managingyourmoney/index.aspx

nottingham.ac.uk/student-services/services/support-and-wellbeing-team.aspx

ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Studying--living-in-the-UK/Frauds-and-scams

All information was correct at the time of writing.

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