

We have received several reports of international students receiving fraudulent (scam) telephone calls, emails, or online/social media postings that attempt to take your money and/or personal information. Please note: Dalhousie University and Canadian government agencies will not call you demanding payment. Report any suspicious calls, emails, or online/social media postings to Dalhousie Security Office immediately (Halifax: 902-494-6400; Truro: 902-893-4190):

**Warning signs of common scams:**

- The caller ID or phone number looks like a government agency (most often the Canada Revenue Agency or Immigration Refugee and Citizenship Canada) or the police.
- A claim is made that you owe money or have committed some kind of fraud.
- Certain scams will ask you for your passport information or say there are issues with your permits/visa.
- A caller or letter will use fear, threats, and intimidation to get what they want.
- Many scams will ask you to make payments, often through bitcoin or gift cards.
- A scam includes punishment (often threats of deportation or arrest) for not acting immediately.
- A scammer will keep you on the phone for a long time and will not let you hang up to call back later.
- A scammer will use lots of legal-sounding language such as “federal regulations” and “visa fee” to sound as legitimate as possible.
- Some scams ask you to make online tuition payments.
- Other scams claim someone you know has been kidnapped and demand payment.

Report to Dalhousie Security Office (Halifax: 902-494-6400; Truro: 902-893-4190):

- If you receive a concerning or suspicious call.
- If a letter arrives in the mail which includes threats for not acting.
- If an employer is acting unethically by requiring you to pay money to receive a job offer, or an employment agency is offering to create fake credentials.

For more information:

- Protection from Fraud and Scams <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/finance/fraud.html>
- Halifax Police Department-Fraud Prevention <https://www.halifax.ca/fire-police/police/crime-prevention-tips/fraud-prevention>
- You can report a scam where you have not been a victim to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, or can use the RCMP’s online reporting system or call 1.888.495.8501
- For more information on how to safeguard against scams and fraud in Canada, please read [\*\*\*The Little Black Book of Scams\*\*\*](#).
- If the International Centre is alerted, we will put notices in our newsletters, on our [website](#) as well as our social media platforms.