



Financial scams targeting international students

23 September 2022

Dear students,

NSW police has made the University aware of scams targeting international students at the University of Sydney. To keep you safe and protect your data, identity and finances, we would like to remind you of what to do if you're targeted and the support available to you.

Scammers may approach you via phone, email, text message or chat platform (such as WhatsApp or Wechat), or in person. They will often pretend to be a government official or a police officer and will falsely claim that you are in trouble with the police or have issues with your visa. They may then say that you need to transfer a large sum of money to a bank account (usually overseas) in order to avoid arrest or other issues.

If someone contacts you or approaches you demanding money or personal information – please don't panic, don't engage with them, and don't agree to anything. If you think someone has your bank details, please contact your financial institution as soon as possible.

If you feel threatened or concerned, make sure you seek advice from someone you trust. If someone continues to harass you and causes you to feel unsafe, please reach out to [emergency services](#) by calling '000' in Australia or your local emergency services. If you are on campus, you can contact Protective Services by ringing 02 9351 3487.

International students have 24/7 access to wellbeing and safety professionals through the [Sonder app](#). There is also [free and confidential support at the University](#), and [SRC](#) or [SUPRA](#) caseworkers can help you to understand if the request or communication you have received is legitimate.

More information on many common scams, useful tips on how you can protect yourself, and ways to report a scam can be found on the [Scamwatch website](#).

Regards,
Office of Student Life

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