



Recognizing Job Scams in Canada: A Student Guide

INTRODUCTION

Whether you are seeking part-time, summer, or post-graduation work, it's important to watch for job scams. Fraudulent postings can look legitimate but aim to steal your money or personal information. This guide outlines key red flags, how to avoid scams, and what to do if you're unsure about a job.

WHY IT MATTERS

Job scams can:

- Trick you into paying upfront fees
- Steal your personal data
- Waste your time and impact confidence
- Create dangerous or unsafe situations

COMMON JOB SCAM RED FLAGS

1. It Sounds Too Good to Be True

- Extremely high pay for very little work
- “No experience needed!” for roles that should require training
- Vague job descriptions with few actual responsibilities

2. No Interview or Application Process

- You’re “hired” right away without an interview
- The employer avoids phone or video calls
- Communication is only via messaging apps or text

3. Requests for Personal or Financial Information

- They ask for your SIN, bank account, or photo ID upfront
- You’re told to buy equipment, software, or gift cards with a “promise” of reimbursement
- You're asked to deposit a cheque and send money back

4. Suspicious Email Addresses or Websites

- Emails are from free domains like @gmail.com or misspelled company names
- The job posting isn’t listed on the company’s official website
- Poor grammar, unprofessional language, or inconsistent formatting in messages

5. Pressure to Act Fast

- You’re told the job is urgent and must be filled immediately
- You're rushed to sign contracts or provide information before you can ask questions

EXAMPLES OF SCAM SCENARIOS

- You are sent a cheque to deposit and asked to wire back part of it—it then bounces
- You are asked to buy equipment for a remote job, then ghosted after sending payment
- You get an unsolicited job offer via email from a "recruiter" you never contacted



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PROTECT YOURSELF: DO'S AND DON'TS

DO:

- **Research the company:** Check their official website, social media, and online reviews
- **Ask questions:** A real employer welcomes questions about the role and company
- **Verify job postings:** Apply through official platforms or the company's own careers page
- **Use your school's career services:** They often vet postings before sharing with students
- **Trust your instincts:** If something feels off, it probably is

DON'T

- Don't send money to anyone for any reason
- Don't share your SIN, bank info, or ID unless you've accepted a verified job offer
- Don't click suspicious links in job offers or recruiter emails
- Don't agree to cash cheques or make financial transactions for employers

TIPS FOR SPOTTING LEGITIMATE JOBS

Look for these **GREEN** flags:

- A clear job description with tasks and required qualifications
- A formal interview process (phone, Zoom, or in person)
- Employer email addresses from official domains (e.g., @companyname.ca)
- A professional company website and contact information
- No requests for personal information until a formal job offer is made

WHERE TO REPORT OR GET HELP

If you suspect a scam:

- Report it to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre: www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca
- Contact your school's [Career Services](#)
- Notify the job board or platform (e.g., Indeed, LinkedIn) where you saw the posting

FINAL CHECKLIST BEFORE APPLYING TO A JOB

- Is the company legitimate and easy to find online?
- Is the contact person using a professional email?
- Does the job posting include clear role responsibilities?
- Was an interview required before an offer?
- Have you checked with your school's student employment office if unsure?
- Are you being asked for SIN or financial info only after a formal offer?