

### **Case study five: Unsolicited emails**

A post graduate student received an unsolicited email from a researcher based outside the UK. The email congratulated the student on a recent co-authored journal article and asked if he would be willing to discuss the research and paper in more detail. The student did not recognise the emailer's name or home university, but excited by the opportunity, responded saying he would be more than happy to discuss his work.

The student's supervisor was glad to see the paper had received attention and indicated she would join the call if possible. She suggested that the student fill in a short online form, as required by the department before any form of international engagement. The student submitted the form and was advised the next day that he should decline the meeting. The email he had received was sent to several researchers across the institution – on a wide variety of research topics – and was deemed to be suspicious and unlikely to be genuine.

In this scenario, the student followed departmental protocol and the request for a discussion about the research was ultimately declined. What internal processes do you have in place to support academics