Student visa fraud guidance pack
Autumn 2018

UK Visas and Immigration
Action Fraud

#STAYTUNEDTOFRAUD

UK Visas
& Immigration

ActionFraud
Report Fraud & Internet Crime
actionfraud.police.uk

Dear Partner,

Every year, UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) receives hundreds of thousands of applications for Tier 4 visas from individuals who want to study at our world class institutions. Last year, 96% of Tier 4 applications were successful.

Whilst this is something we are very proud of, it has sadly come to our attention that international students are being targeted by fraudsters once they reach UK soil.

Perpetrators are calling our customers, claiming to be from the Home Office and demanding money for non existent visas fee and fines, sometimes in the way of gift cards or iTunes vouchers.

We need your help to stop these fraudsters in their tracks. With your help and support, we can warn students against fraudulent activity and prevent them from falling for such scams.

We have teamed up with Action Fraud to create this guidance pack. Within it, you will find key messages and assets for you to share on your own communication channels to help us collectively reach as many students as possible. We have also recommended a few additional actions you can take to warn students about fraudulent activity.

Thank you in advance for all your support.

Further information about Action Fraud

Action Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cyber crime, and takes crime and information reports on behalf of the police and gives advice and fraud prevention guidance.

Action Fraud does not have investigation powers, however, the reports taken by Action Fraud are sent to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) which is run by the City of London Police, the national lead force for fraud.

The NFIB collates and analyses intelligence on fraud, identifying viable lines of enquiry and developing packages for submitting to a police force for investigation. The NFIB also execute a range of disruption and crime prevention techniques for victims across all sectors to target criminality and engineer out the threat from fraud and cyber crime.

For further information, visit www.actionfraud.police.uk

Key Messages

•Legitimate Home Office officials will never contact you and ask you to pay visa fees or fines over the phone.

• If you receive an unexpected call from someone who claims to be from the Home Office, it may be a scam. If you are worried about your Visa status, contact your university or place of study where someone will help you. You can also contact UKVI on 0300 123 224.

• Home Office or UKVI officials will never ask you to pay visa fees or fines using iTunes gift cards, cryptocurrency or money transfer services. Never provide the numbers on the back of iTunes Gift Cards to someone you don't know.

• Always question unexpected requests for your personal or financial information in case it’s a scam. Even if someone knows your basic details, it doesn’t mean they are genuine.

• Trusted organisations won't pressure you to make a financial transaction on the spot. If something feels wrong, question it.

•If you think you have been a victim of fraud you should report it to your place of study and to Action Fraud. Call 0300 123 2040.

•Stay tuned to fraud!

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Assets

Statics

Assets

Statics

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Assets

Gif 1 – to play left to right

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Assets

Gif 2 – to play left to right

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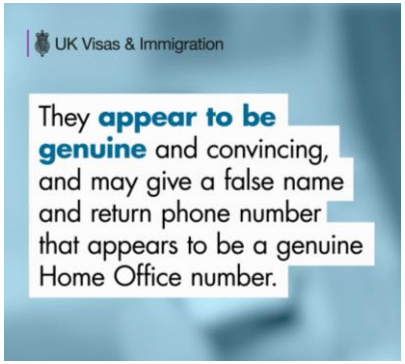
Assets

Gif 3 – to play left to right



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Assets

Poster to display on campus

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If you receive an unexpected email, telephone call or letter from someone who claims to be from the Home Office, it may be a scam.

Fraudsters may call and tell you there is a serious problem with your visa. They appear to be genuine and convincing, and may give a false name and return phone number that appears to be a genuine Home Office number.

They may tell you to send money as soon as possible using different methods of payment, to prevent some kind of action, like deportation or cancellation of your visa.

Always question unwanted requests for your personal or financial information. Even if someone knows your basic details, it doesn't mean they are genuine.

Learn the facts and stay safe:

If you receive an unexpected call, text message or email and are worried about your Visa status, contact your university or place of study where someone will help you.

The Home Office or UKVI will never ask you to pay visa fees or fines using itunes vouchers, gift cards, cryptocurrency or money transfer service.

Home Office and UKVI officials will never pressure you to make a financial transaction on the spot. If something feels wrong, question it.

If you think you have been a victim of fraud you should report it to your place of study and to Action Fraud. Call 0300 123 2040 or report it online at www.actionfraud.police.uk

ActionFraud
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre
actionfraud.police.uk

Visit www.gov.uk and search 'fraud, tricks and scams' for further advice.

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