



Australian Government



National
Anti-Scam
Centre

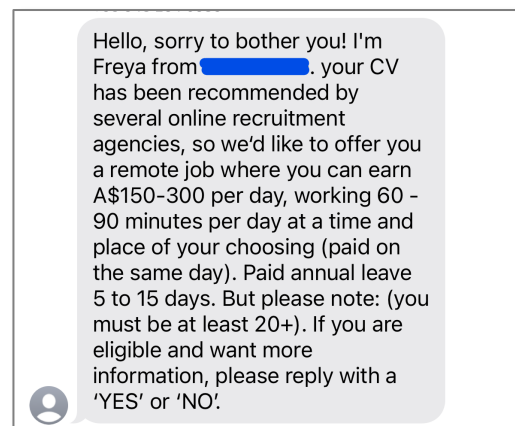
Job scams tertiary education forum | 4 March 2025

This is a summary of key insights from the National Anti-Scam Centre tertiary education forum on job scams, and suggested steps for organisations in the sector to help prevent scams and support students.

Key types of job scam	
Task-based	Victims are “employed” to complete simple tasks such as reviewing products or services. As they progress, they are required to transfer their own money (usually in cryptocurrency) to access further tasks or unlock commissions.
Up-front fee	Scammers ask for fees for application processing, visas, or training. The job offer disappears once money or personal information is sent.
Money mule	Victims are recruited to receive money in their personal bank account and transfer it out under the guise of processing payments for an employer. They are actually laundering money for criminals.

Stop. Check. Protect.

Help students spot red flags in scam job ads like these:



- **If it seems too good to be true**, it probably is. Jobs that offer high pay for little effort are likely scams.
- **Be wary of any job that requires up-front payment.**
- **A job that asks you to pay money** or cryptocurrency to unlock tasks or commissions is a scam.
- **Legitimate recruiters will not send unsolicited messages** on encrypted messaging platforms. If you get contacted by a “recruiter” on a WhatsApp, Telegram or iMessage, it’s a scam.
- **If you haven’t applied for that job**, it’s likely a scam. If someone says they have a copy of your CV or resume, ask them where they got it and verify with that business.
- **Always verify the business** by contacting them via their official channels before sending any personal information.
- **Consider the process.** If you receive a job offer without an interview or reference checks, and without submitting your resume, it’s likely a scam.

Why are students targeted?

Scammers take advantage of the behaviours and needs of students, especially international students:

- **They may need flexible work** and are more likely to engage with offers for remote work.
- **They may be unfamiliar with standard hiring practices**, usual contact methods and typical rates of pay, making it harder to spot red flags.
- **They trust digital platforms**, where many job scams are advertised.
- **International students face additional risks**, including language barriers, unfamiliarity with the Australian job market, and a lack of awareness around their rights and Australian law.

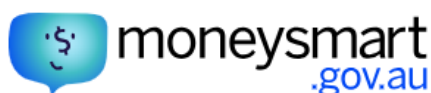
How to help students avoid job scams

To reduce the risk of scams, the National Anti-Scam Centre recommends:

- **Embedding Scam Awareness.** Consider including scams education in student orientation, job boards, and career services. Use real life examples to relate to students. Ensure staff are familiar with warning signs of scams and can assist students to verify job offers. Post scams awareness messaging on social media and other online platforms.
- **Vetting Job Listings.** If your organisation hosts employment ads, review postings carefully and remove suspicious listings. Be cautious of jobs that are too good to be true, offer unusually high rates of pay, require up-front payment, or use vague or AI-generated language instead of specifying tasks and responsibilities.
- **Reporting Scams.** Encourage reporting to scamwatch.gov.au, even if no money has been lost. If contact was made on a digital platform or messaging app, ask the student to report it in the app.

Supporting scam victims

- **Prevent further losses** by firmly encouraging victims to stop sending money, no matter what the scammer tells them.
- **Secure bank accounts and credit cards.**
- **Refer to support services** (see below), and follow-up to ensure the victim is getting support.
- **Contact others** who may have encountered the scam on your platforms, by email, etc.
- **Encourage reporting to scamwatch.gov.au**, which is one of the best ways to help others stay safe.
- **Ensure victim is alert to future scams**, particularly recovery scams promising to return money lost in the original scam.



1300 22 4636 beyondblue.org.au



Assistance from the National Anti-Scam Centre

We can help you protect your students and clients from scams through:

- **Scamwatch Alerts:** [Subscribe](#) to receive e-mail alerts about new and trending scams. We recommend following [Scamwatch on Instagram](#) and the [ACCC on Facebook](#).
- **The Little Book of Scams:** A popular guide to help you spot and avoid scams. [Available here](#) in English and 17 other languages. Printed copies are also available on request.
- **Training & Workshops:** If you'd like to develop or host scams awareness training for staff or students, please contact us at fusioncells@accc.gov.au.