Protecting Yourself from Fraudulent Positions

First, read and understand the Student Terms of Use for Lightning CareerLink and/or the Student Employment Program from the Career Development Center so that you understand your responsibility for due diligence when interacting with employers. Second, if you have any doubts or concerns about possible fraudulent behavior, notify the Career Development Center as soon as possible: E-mail: career@mtsu.edu

Be aware that fraudulent job postings exist and be cautious of any employer or job posting that:

- Asks for your financial information such as credit card or bank account numbers
- Does not have an e-mail that matches the company domain (i.e. they use live, gmail, yahoo, or similar e-mail addresses)
- Requires an initial financial investment
- Promises you a large payment or reward in return for processing financial transactions
- Asks you to send payment by wire service, courier or cashier’s check
- Does not provide a phone number or when you call the phone number, no one answers
- Posts a job that is overly vague or engages in “double speak”
- Promises to get rich quick with little effort, work from home, etc. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true…
- Offers a “virtual” position and you never have the opportunity to meet them
- Offers you a position simply by having you reply to the posting without interviewing you
- Is poorly written and contains grammar and spelling errors
- “Baits and switches” a position, meaning they post a legitimate sounding position then follow up with you asking you to engage in questionable activity different than what was listed

Additional articles about fraudulent/scam employment:


Web sites to check for scam reports:

- Rip Off Report: www.ripoffreport.com
- Conduct an Internet search using the organization’s name and the word “scam” to see what comes up

Filing a consumer complaint:

- Federal Trade Commission: https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/#crnt
- Local Law Enforcement Agencies
Examples of Recent Scams

SCAM - Manchester Rubber Stamp Ltd.

- Notice the lack of a corporate email address
- The Manchester Rubber Stamp, Ltd is a real organization...in England!
- Vague details with high pay
- "Once in a lifetime opportunity"

From: Harris Wright <wriightharris5@gmail.com>
Date: September 6, 2017 at 8:49:46 AM CDT
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Available Job Position

The Manchester Rubber Stamp Ltd is now looking for an outgoing, career-oriented and positive person to join our team! Get back to us for more details if you are interested in this limited opportunity that comes once in a lifetime and makes $270/week at your free time.

Sincerely,
Harris Wright
The Manchester Rubber Stamp Ltd
Below are 2 examples of a recent national scam email that was recognized by the FBI in January 2017. Notice that these are 2 real companies, but with fake Gmail accounts. The contents of the emails are almost identical.

From: Vivian Schaedel <vivv77sch@gmail.com >
Date: September 8, 2017 at 1:40:16 PM CDT
To: [redacted]
Subject: PART TIME JOB OFFER; CISCOsystems

Dear Student,

You are selected from your school database to be among the selected participants in this work offer. I'm happy to inform you that our reputable company CISCO Systems® in conjunction with PATHWAY is currently running a student empowerment program. This program is to help loyal and hardworking students like you secure a part time job which does not deter you from doing any other job. You just need a few hours to do this weekly with an attractive weekly salary/wages inclusive.

KINDLY REPLY WITH YOUR PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESS IF INTERESTED IN THIS JOB POSITION IN ORDER TO GET IN CONTACT WITH YOU.

Thanks.

Kind Regards,

Vivian Schaedel
HR Recruit Manager/Consultant
CISCOsystems®

From: Laura Gauge <lauragaue44@gmail.com>
Date: September 12, 2017 at 6:34:11 PM CDT
To: undisclosed-recipients:
Subject: MTSU PAID JOB OFFER

Dear Student,

We got your contact through your school database and I'm happy to inform you that our reputable company CORESTAFF SERVICES Inc®, is currently running a student empowerment programme. This programme is to help loyal and hardworking students like you secure a part time job which does not deter you from doing any other, you just need a few hours to do this weekly and with an attractive weekly salary.

KINDLY EMAIL BACK WITH YOUR PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESS IF INTERESTED IN THIS JOB POSITION.

Kind Regards,

Laura Gauge,
HR Manager/Consultant
CORESTAFF SERVICES Inc®
SCAM - AGCO Example:

- AGCO is a legitimate company. However, the contact is fraudulent and does not actually work for the company.
- This is a “bait-and-switch” position in that the follow-up was for a position that was different from the original posting; it was from a Hotmail account; it involved money transactions; the language isn’t quite right; it is vague as to the actual business; and it is high pay for doing very little work.

From: agco.corporation@hotmail.com
Subject: RE: Non-OCR Resume Submitted

Dear Applicant,

My name is Tyler Kenney from AGCO CORP, I link suppliers who have been personally tested to buyers and stand for 100%. I source for buyers and suppliers at the same time so I can link them to mine and the company’s profits. On every actual purchase made, I have a 20% profit. I source for buyers and suppliers within and outside the United States of America. I am constantly on the move organizing seminars to bring buyers and suppliers together. I need someone that can complete billings, invoicing and payments on my behalf and get them to the vendors, as well as to be on deck to receive payments from my buyers, so the linking is effective and immediate.

The only way I am entitled to the 20% payment is, if the actual deal is concluded through me. When suppliers and buyers go head to head, I am at a loss as they can transact directly with one another without my knowledge. This position offers you 10%, you’re offered a very good pay as transactions are steady, continuous and constant. An average transaction is for $2,000.00 and over and you can handle as many as 3 transactions in a week as most payments are made in installment. The pay is good enough to encourage you to work hard and be efficient while it’s more than enough for me to stay in business while encouraging me to source harder and link more. I travel a lot and when buyers want to make purchase, when I’m on company errand, he/she has to hold-on till I return, to place an order, on the long term. The effect is our customers start sourcing for suppliers on their own, so having an assistant/representative easily reachable has its numerous advantages. We have lost too many deals due to this and I’m trying to put an end to it.

The best form of payment used are Business checks and direct bank transfers they are readily available and confirmed on the spot, they are not the only means used but they are the best for our process. Most of the buyers we work with are those we’ve previously handled successful transactions with, new buyers are verified and confirmed before the linking process occurs. You have nothing to worry about. The mode of operation is as follows; you receive the payment directly from the individual buyer, in your mail, usually via ups and have them cashed. You send the payment to our suppliers/vendors when I need you to, or directly to the company and your pay is 10% of the amount sent to you. All charges during cashing, sending of payments and transaction completion will be deducted from the balance after you’ve gotten your pay and not deducted from your pay so your pay is fixed on the amount cashed per transaction. You can handle as many as 3 or more transactions per week, but you’ll be handling one (1) initially to see how efficiently and how quickly you can carry out the completion.

On 3 transactions you’re sure of nothing less than $600 weekly. The hours are flexible and you can decide when you want to work as what you’ll be doing initially is cashing the payments and completing the transaction to the supplier. I don’t need you online 24/7, just to be online on a daily basis and at least check your e-mail regularly. Working with me will also not disturb your other jobs, (If you have any) as I require that applicant only have easy access to the internet, be reachable easily and respond/carry out instructions sent as soon as possible.

Please show your continued interest in this position by sending me the following info.

First Name:
Last Name:
Mailing Address (No P o box):
City: State:
Zip Code:
Mobile Phone #:
Contact Phone #:
Alternative Contact e-mail:

Regards,
Tyler Kenney
ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT
AGCO CORP
SCAM - The Carter Center Example:

- Notice the contact person's misspelled email address.
- The Carter Center is a real organization. This person is not affiliated with them and this is a scam.
- The official Carter Center has a notification about this scam on their website:
  http://www.cartercenter.org/news/pr/fraud_alert_072308.html

Contact Information:
James Brundidge  
109 N Maple St.  
Murfreesboro, TN 37130  
jamesbrunny@cartarcenter.org  
3035007260

Organization Name: The Carter Center

Overview: We are a Non governmental Organizational guided by a fundamental commitment to human rights and the alleviation of human suffering. We seek to prevent and resolve conflicts, enhance freedom and democracy, and improve health.

Website: http://www.cartercenter.org

Position Title: Mail Services  
Part-time, Commission Only, $350

Brief Position Description: Interested Candidates are to perform the duties such as:  
* Mailing out letters of invitation from us to other Non Governmental Organizations, foundations or businesses in your city  
* Receiving items such as food stuffs, clothing, Med etc  
* Send out the items through the mail to the list of orphanage homes that would be provided to you in your city.
No one Listed  
Email Resume to jamesbrunny@cartarcenter.org

Start Date: 09/16/2015

Location: TN

SCAM - General Clerk Example:

- Below is an example of an email scam. This scam, targeting students at colleges and universities, has appeared in other states. The email is deceptively designed to appear to originate with businesses and employers in the area.

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From: Michael West <mwinf_dymax@mi1.net>  
Date: Monday, August 31, 2015  
Subject: GENERAL CLERK POSITION

Hello,  

My name is Michael West. You can simply call me Michael. I am the Assistant Distribution Manager at Dymax Corporation. I received your resume regarding this position which is still available. I need assistance with my errands because I am constantly out of town. As a matter of fact, I am currently on an official/business trip to Dublin, Ireland. I will prepare you in advance to do my shopping, bill payments, placing and expediting orders, picking-up and delivering shipping and mailing items to my PO box and you can do these at your current location. I will pick the items up from the post office when I return from Dublin on the 27th of September, 2015.

When I get back to the States, you will start other administrative office functions as stated in the job posting which will be in our new branch at Wilmington, NC. I will email you the list and pictures of what to shop for so you can do the shopping at Sears, Walmart, Best buy and other stores. I'll pay you $260 for your service for 10 hours every week.
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SCAM - The Stones River Property Management Example:

- Notice the contact person’s email address; when visiting the real organization’s website, all contact emails are “@stonesriverpm.com.” “myofficemail01” is not a professional email address.
- No employee contact information is given.
- Stones River Property Management is a real organization. This person is not affiliated with them and this is a scam.

Stones River Property Management

Office Assistant

Address: 2122 N Thompson Lane Murfreesboro, TN 37129

Website: http://www.stonesriverproperties.com

Organization Overview: Serving Middle Tennessee for over 20 years, Stones River Property Management, INC. is a full service, turn-key real estate company specializing in investment and rental properties. We manage many properties including single family homes, commercial office space, apartment complexes, gated communities, equestrian and more. Our office staff includes licensed real estate agents with years of market expertise and knowledge, a full service accounting team, maintenance coordinator/inspector and office administrator to meet your real estate needs. Ron Hodges began to build the business that would become Stones River Property Management, INC. in 1992. Ron has developed the business that is now one of the largest property management companies in the Middle Tennessee area by assembling an exceptional team of professionals to better serve you and all of your property management needs.

Position Description: We are looking for a college student as a PART TIME office assistant for a fast paced office. Quick Books duties: Inputting bills, paying invoices, filing paperwork, data entry & reconciling American Express statements into the correct expense lines. Flexible schedule as we can work around yours. However, We will need two days a week during the Monday-Friday work week. In a perfect world you would work 11am-5pm two days a week on Tuesday & Thursday. RULES ON REPLYING TO THIS POST: - Include a short bio about yourself. - Include your full name & cell number. - Let me know where you go to School & what days/times you are available to work. Serious inquiries ONLY.

Minimum Qualifications: - Junior or Senior in college or Graduate PREFERRED* - Assisting Manager/Owners in an office setting. - MUST be proficient in QUICK BOOKS. - Must be able to work 15-20 hours a week. - hours/times are flexible.

Application Instructions: Please submit your resume to: myofficemail01@ propertiesmginc.org

Desired Start Date: ASAP

Position Location: Murfreesboro, TN

Position Type: part time

Salary Type: Hourly

Wage Amount: $15
SCAM – The Stamp Bug Ltd. Example:

- Notice the contact person’s email address; it is a gmail, not business account.
- Language is slightly off. Ex. “We have Agents in United State”. Agents is not a commonly used term, it should not be capitalized, and there should be an “s” on United States.
- Good pay for doing very little work.
- No skills or requirements listed.
- No contact information on contact.
- Companies rarely ask specifically for “sex” or “age.”

---- Original Message ----
Subject: INFORMATION NEEDED IF INTERESTED
Sent: Apr 22, 2017 11:17
From: Jane Pinder <thestampbug0@gmail.com>
To:
Cc:

Thanks for getting back to us regarding the Job offer, We have Agents in United State that are working for the company, they need materials like envelopes, files and stamps to do their daily job. They will email you whenever they need materials and also state the type of materials and the quantity they need, it is now your duty to contact the supplier through email to make orders for the materials and also state the quantity that should be mail to the agent address through the post.

Each agent will only order for materials once in a week, we are employing you just to reduce the workload for us, our suppliers and for the agents. It is an online job where agents will only contact you for materials during the weekdays.

Salary/wages payment: $270 weekly which will be transferred to you. We will always email you guidelines and instructions to follow in getting your job done perfectly when you start working.

Get back to us with the information listed below to get a position.

1, NAME:
2, CONTACT ADDRESS: (please include the street name, city, state and zip code)
3, MOBILE:
4, AGE:
5, SEX:
6, PERSONAL EMAIL:

The person holding this position is relocating out of the US and won't be able to do the job any more that's why we are looking for more hands to help us in the job, work commences as soon as possible depending on you, make sure you check your email box at-least twice daily and also respond to the email and reply us as soon as you read from us. We hope you enjoy working with us.

Sincerely,
Jane Pinder
Project Supervisor
The Stamp Bug Ltd