



UMBC Police Department

2017 Scam Alert



A re-occurring crime on UMBC's campus is the "On-Line Job Scam." Job seekers who use online job search web sites must be careful to avoid a type of job scam in which the applicant is asked to accept payment to his or her own bank account. These scams are known as "payment-forwarding" or "payment-transfer" scams. These scams involve a con artist who pretends to be an employer and uses a job advertisement to lure an unsuspecting job seeker. Con artists are quite convincing, and may even use company names and corporate logos to convince victims that they are legitimate employers. **There is NO chance of recovering funds or arresting these criminals.**

Red flags:

1	Do not forward, transfer, or "wire" money to an employer.
2	Do not transfer money and retain a portion for payment.
3	A contact email address that is not a primary domain. For example, employers calling itself "Omega Inc." with a "Yahoo!" email address.
4	Misspellings and grammatical mistakes in the job ad.
5	Monster .com lists descriptive words in job postings that are tip-offs to fraud. Their list includes "package-forwarding," "money transfers," "wiring funds," "eBay," and "PayPal."
6	World Privacy Forum researchers also found that the terms "Foreign Agent Agreement" often appears in contracts and emails sent to job seekers.
7	Interviewers who tell you you're a finalist even though you haven't had much of an interview.
8	Companies that you can't find references to in search engines or on sites like the Better Business Bureau. Conversely, companies that are established, but the contact names, numbers and email addresses don't match up with what you've received. This could indicate someone's just borrowing a legitimate company's name.

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