



University
of Exeter

Understanding criminal activity and fraud and how to protect yourself

Sue O'Hara
Transition and Integration

Meet the team

- **Sue O'Hara**
Transition and Integration, University staff
- **Annie**
Chinese Community Wellbeing Service, Bristol
- **James Shae, Bess**
Chinese Language Support Officer, INTO

Fraud and criminal activity: what can it look like for students?



- People pretending to be Chinese officials or working for UK Home Office
- Robbery
- Stolen identity
- Money Laundering
- Coercion to accept drugs or goods
- Academic Fraud
- Taking money from loan sharks

Some specific scams: UKVI calls

An unexpected call/email from ‘an official at the Home Office’

- You haven’t submitted the right paperwork
- There is an issue with outstanding ‘criminal activity’ at home
- You must pay a fine immediately or your visa will be cancelled

Why is this a scam?

- Legitimate Home Office officials will **never** contact you and ask you to pay visa fees or fines over the phone
- Home Office or UKVI officials will **never** ask you to pay fees or fines using iTunes gift cards, cryptocurrency or money transfer services

What should you do?

- Immediately stop the call
- If you have given any bank details etc, contact your bank immediately to freeze your account.
- Contact Estate Patrol, Police 101 and email International Student Support

HMRC or VAT scam

- You may receive a letter, email, text or phone call which claims to be from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) telling you about a tax rebate or penalty and asks for personal or payment information
- You may receive a letter, email, text message or a phone call which claims to be from a company such as DHL which claims that you own money for unpaid VAT (value added tax).

Why is this a scam?

- HMRC would never call you. You can find some examples of scam messages on the [HMRC website](#) in case you'd like to check.

What should you do?

- Report suspicious messages to HMRC's phishing team [here](#) or, [DHL](#).

Money Mules

You are a money mule if you let someone else use your bank account to send money into.

- 6 in 10 money mules are aged 17-24, many are recruited at university or colleges.
- Money mules usually get recruited because they get a cut of the stolen money.
- It is a serious criminal offence, with a maximum sentence of 14 years in prison.

How can I protect myself?

- Be suspicious of job adverts that offer easy money
- Don't sign up without proper research
- Don't accept message requests or links from people you don't know
- Don't share bank and personal details with anyone you don't know or trust

What should you do?

- If you have given any bank details etc, contact your bank immediately to freeze your account.
- Contact Estate Patrol, Police 101 and email International Student Support
- Contact the HMRC Fraud Hotline quoting ref: IFMM23.

General tips

- Don't give your bank account details to anyone unless you know and trust them.
- Be very cautious of unsolicited offers of easy money. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Research any company that makes you a job offer and make sure their contact details (address, landline phone number, email address and website) are genuine.
- Be wary of job offers from people or companies overseas as it will be harder for you to find out if they are legitimate.
- Be wary of ads that are written in poor English, with grammatical errors and spelling mistakes.



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Any questions?



International Student Support family

Transition
and
Integration

English
Language
Skills
Development

Study
Zone

Wellbeing
and health

Students'
Guild

Internation
al Student
Support

Faculty
Hubs

Career
Zone

Sport

Support available to you

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/students/az-services/>



Welcome to Exeter

Helping you at Exeter

Intercultural Café

- Intercultural Café,
every Wednesday 11-12 (Crosskeys),
Wednesday 3-4pm (Isca Eats)
Friday 10.30-11.30 (Isca Eats)
- Everyone gets a hot drink and a bun
- Weekly themes
- 1700 student visits in 2022/23
- Everyone welcome (including staff)!





Cultural Events on campus

- Christmas lunch (123 attendees in 2022)
- Diwali (2000 attendees in 2022)
- Spring Festival (8 societies, 2000 red packets!)
- Holi
- Eid, Ramadan
- Past events: Diversity Week, Pancake Day, Saudi Day, South East Asian festival, Thanksgiving, Summer parties, Mother Language Day, Newroz,



Your International eNews

- Monthly e –newsletter
- Sent to 9000 students in February
63-88% open rate
- Happy to include news items
email copy and a pic by 20th of the month
to s.ohara@exeter.ac.uk



Dear ,

I often feel a bit bleak in February. Days can be short, cold, grey and wet. Occasionally we have enough snow to make a cat. The buzz of Christmas is a distant memory and Spring feels a long way off. But February can also be a good month for a bit of self care: time to be cosy, read a book, make some plans. It can be a month filled with comforting nourishing food. Is it time to dust off your favourite recipe? I love cooking soups, stews or dhal in February.



We have lots of social events to look forward to with **Lunar New Year** celebrations and fireworks, Intercultural Cafe, Give it a Go and so much more. So wrap up, look after yourselves and we hope to see you at the various events.

all the best,

Sue O'Hara and Sophie Meadows
Student Support Officer: Transition and Integration

Celebrate the year of the Rabbit on campus (30 January)

We want to wish all our students, staff and local residents Happy Lunar New Year 2023. **We will be celebrating on campus on Monday 30 January.**



Sunday, January 22, 2023 marked the first new moon on the lunar calendar and the start of the Year of the Rabbit. Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is the most celebrated and longest of all Asian festivals and is observed by millions of people around the world. Not only in China, other countries in East Asia hold their own new year celebrations at this time and we are pleased to be able to showcase those different traditions in our festival on campus. The Chinese zodiac gives each year an animal



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Chinese Community Wellbeing Service (CCWS)

- CCWS supports the health and social care needs of the Chinese speaking community across the South West of England.
- Provide assistance, advice, representation and services
- <https://chinesecws.org.uk/aboutus/>



CCWS: On Your Side

- On Your Side is a UK-wide support and reporting service for East and Southeast Asian communities who experience racism and/or any forms of hate. You deserve to be listened to and taken seriously.
- On Your Side includes a 24/7 free helpline and a website where you can find support, access resources, and if you wish, make a report. Our friendly team speak a range of East and Southeast Asian languages and through trusted interpreters can support you in any language you need.
- Call for free: 08088010393
- Contact online: onyoursideuk.ok





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Any questions?