



TIMELY WARNING NOTICE: USF ST. PETERSBURG CAMPUS

Crime Alert Bulletin

FRAUD SCAMS TARGET UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

April 22nd, 2021

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) reports that fraud suspects impersonating themselves as employees of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) are using spoofed emails and fraudulent checks to defraud university students. In recent weeks, several incidents have been reported in Florida.

In most of these schemes, fraudsters sent an email to the student's university email address, with the sender's address typically appearing to originate from another student at their university, concerning an internship or part-time employment position with UNICEF. The fraudsters usually mailed checks with United States Postal Service (USPS) tracking to the students, containing their first paycheck and additional funds allegedly intended to purchase items for foster homes or orphanages on behalf of UNICEF. After the students deposited the checks into a personal banking account, the fraudsters directed the students to purchase cryptocurrency or gift cards, or to otherwise transfer the funds to another financial account. Financial institutions later determined the checks to be fraudulent.

Many of these unsolicited emails have contained grammatical and spelling errors, requested personal identifiable information, or originated from domains that are not organization specific.

You are encouraged to verify the authenticity of email addresses by contacting organizations through their official websites.

For additional information or to report a scam or fraud to the Federal Trade Commission contact <https://www.ftc.gov/faq/consumer-protection/submit-consumer-complaint-ftc>.

If you need any additional information or assistance, please contact the University Police at 727-873-4444 or usfsp-police@usf.edu.

SEE SOMETHING. SAY SOMETHING.

CALL UPD: **727-873-4444**



UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA
ST. PETERSBURG