

10 Red Flags of a Fraudulent Job Posting

Congratulations! You've started your job or internship search! The Experiential Learning and Career Development Center works hard to screen the opportunities we send to you, but you should still be aware of what to look for on outside or third-party websites. Here are some things to be aware of as you go through the search process to make sure that you find the perfect opportunity and not a fraudulent posting.

1. The job posting asks you to share a photo of yourself, or any financial information including credit card or bank account numbers. In turn, you would be offered a large bonus or payment as a thanks for the use of your accounts.
2. The company is a recognizable name, but the contact email address does not match the company domain email address, even to the point of ending with @gmail.com, @yahoo.com, etc.
3. The posting appears on the third-party website but does not appear on the actual company careers page.
4. The posting itself includes multiple spelling and grammar errors, and focuses on how much money you could make rather than outlining the actual details of the position.
5. The position being advertised is for a very basic job duty, such as "Envelope Stuffer" or "Online Survey Taker."
6. The salary range included is very wide (for example, "Potential to earn \$30K-\$75K!").
7. The position demands an initial investment, typically by wire service, or requests you to contribute financially to help set an office "in your area."
8. An employer reaches out to you as soon as you post your resume (not including an auto-generated response) and immediately offers the job or internship, without any screening or interview process.
9. The company does not have a presence online- the website link ONLY takes you to the job and there is no other company information, or they only want to communicate through personal cell phone numbers, or the Google Street Image for the address doesn't seem like an actual business facility.
10. If you Google the name of the company and "scam," and multiple reports show up, this is the biggest red flag of all. Other resources to check legitimacy is www.ripoffreport.com or the Better Business Bureau.

A good rule of thumb is to go with your intuition- if it seems too good to be true, it probably is. If you are unsure if a posting or company is a scam, you can ask a Career Counselor to do research for you by contacting the Experiential Learning and Career Development Center at elcdc@albright.edu or 610-921-7630. For more information on fraudulent postings, or to report a scam, see the Federal Trade Commission at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0243-job-scams>.