

Syracuse University
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Important Issues

SCAMS – IRS AND BANK FAKE CALLS – DON'T BECOME A VICTIM

Several students have reported receiving calls pressuring them to give money, credit card and or bank account numbers over the phone. Never give out this information after receiving such a call.

Please take the time to read two stories from current students who received such calls this week.

"I received a phone scam call claiming to be IRS filing criminal charges against me. Fortunately I made a recording of the calls. I have filed a complaint with the IRS as well and checked on my tax filing status, which seems to be under review. I just hope no other students are falling victim to such a call.

I had read the emails from Slutzker Center and was already aware about the scams courtesy the news reports and the initiative of the Slutzker Center. I shared this email simply to notify you that such an incident has happened, and since I had a recording of the conversation I felt that it could be helpful for other students who are blissfully unaware of such incidences. I will be glad if my story can help others.

*As pointed out in the newsletters, the scammers have a very convincing way of talking and spreading fake threats. They tried to make me believe that I had some form of criminal case filed against me due to tax evasion. Now, while am aware that IRS would never make a phone call, I was not aware of what is the procedure given the incident of a criminal case. Thankfully, for me at that point I realized that I have copies of my tax filing as well as am aware of the fact that I can check on my tax filing status at any point when I log on to the IRS website. More importantly, if such a case has been filed, **I can go down to the local IRS office and get the information or call the IRS helpline as pointed out on their website** rather than depending on any such fishy phone calls. So I managed not to be scammed. You could say it was common sense and awareness together that helped me. **I just hope students are aware as to how they can check on such details by going on to the IRS website or the local office, and not fall prey to such scammers.***

I am also aware of a similar incident happening with a friend living in Albany just around the time that I was given a phone call yesterday. So perhaps, they are on a spree of scamming at this point."

Another student had a similar experience:

"Hi SCIS,

I recently graduated from L.C.Smith College of Engineering. I want to thank you people for creating awareness among international students regarding phone call scams. I got a phone call from someone today impersonating IRS Senior officer. I got the call from a 1-800-XXXX no., saying that I violated federal tax laws and I have option of paying the money instead of going to jail. Thanks to your emails I quickly realized that its a scam, so I started taking their information like their Office Phone number, Names, Badge number etc. I will let my friends know about this so that they are aware of this Scam."

Yet another with even more terrifying details:

"I got a call from 800-829-1954 (True caller- Internal Revenue Services). As I picked the call, a woman said that she's calling on behalf of IRS and that there is an arrest warrant against me. I asked her what was the matter about and she said that she would transfer my call to their headquarters at Washington DC and they would explain everything to me.

As she transferred the call, another woman began talking. She knew my name and confirmed it from me. Later she asked me in which year I entered the US. After taking the details she said there was an arrest warrant against me for not paying the federal taxes. I told her that I was an on campus employee at Syracuse University and that I paid all the taxes through the university. She told me that the federal taxes are not deducted by the university and that I had to file them separately. I told her I would like to contact my university about it and she said its a confidential matter between me and the US government and that if I contact anyone I would be immediately arrested. She said that I needed to transfer the taxes right now and that if the university were at fault, I would get the refund. Later she gave me my US Federal ID code (5769001) and told me that I had to transfer 1986\$ to them immediately or else I would be arrested today. She asked how I would pay the money, and I said debit card. She asked which bank, I said chase. When I told her I was at work, she told me that I needed to take leave by talking to my manager. She also mentioned that I should not tell my manager where am going and just say its personal work. I told her I do not have so much money in my account right now, and she said minimum 900\$ should be transferred immediately. She told me that she would book a cab for me from my location (Monsanto) and asked me to hold on line. She said if I disconnected, there would be consequences.

While I was on hold, I began processing everything and it struck me that I had got mails from the Slutzker center about scams. I immediately opened the mail and scanned through details and realized this might be a similar scam. I immediately disconnected the call and called the DPS, meanwhile I kept getting the calls again and again which I ignored. Later I also put the phone number on google and it said it was a scam.

I am so happy and relieved that I dint fall for this trap and I took the right decisions. Getting such calls can be really terrifying, especially as students when you still do not know properly how the US Government works. I kindly request you to notify all my fellow students about these scams so that they do not face such issues."

*If you receive such a call, the best course of action is simply to hang up the phone. The IRS, police, banks or other government entities will never call you and demand that you give them your credit or debit card numbers. We have also received information about scams targeting M&T Bank customers specifically. To be safe, do not give any information to someone who has called you. If you believe there may be a problem, hang up the phone and consult your bank yourself. Follow the advice of your fellow students above and don't be a victim!

Changes to University Health Insurance Policy

Beginning August 1, 2015, Syracuse University is making changes to the University Health Insurance Policy. All full-time, matriculated international students will be automatically enrolled in the new Health Insurance Plan on August 1, 2015. For more information about the new Health Insurance policy, please see the information [here](#).

Syracuse University introduces Tobacco Ban to take effect July 1, 2015

Syracuse University is implementing a campus wide [tobacco ban](#). Considering the harmful effects that second hand smoke can have on health, Syracuse University aims to create a smoke free, healthy environment. Beginning in Summer 2015, SU will ban tobacco on all university properties.

For more information about the decision to implement this policy, see the [Daily Orange](#). Maps of areas where smoking will not be permitted and where smoking will still be permitted are available for the [Main Campus](#) and [South Campus](#).

Slutzker Center News and Events

International Center of Syracuse Picnic

June 27, 1 - 4 PM

Clark Reservation State Park

6105 E Seneca Turnpike, Jamesville 13078

This picnic is a great chance to meet new and continuing students while exploring nature around central New York. Hot dogs, chicken, burgers, vegetarian options, and soft drinks are provided, but you are encouraged to bring a dish to share.

Rain or shine, under the large covered pavilion at [Clark Reservation!](#)

A bus will leave the Slutzker Center at 12 noon. You must RSVP if you plan to ride the bus!

Click [here](#) to sign up for the picnic and the bus.

Cultural and Community Events

TGIF (Thank Goodness It's Friday) Tours

June 26, 12:15 PM

Everson Museum of Art

401 Harrison St

Each Friday various members of the Everson's staff guide a unique 30 minute tour. Guest are welcome to stay and chat after the tour with a brown bag lunch.

For more information, click [here](#).

Moonlight Hike

June 26, 8:30 PM

**Green Lakes State Park
7900 Green Lakes Rd, 13066**

The park naturalist will guide a 3 mile walk around the lakes. The free walk begins at the Boathouse at 8:30 PM.

For more information, click [here](#).



Important Reminders

[Full-Time Course of Study](#)

[Meeting Your Health Requirements](#)

[HR notice for on-campus employees](#)

[Is it your last semester of study?](#)

[Transferring from SU to a new U.S. school](#)

[Optional Practical Training EAD cards](#)

[Address Change Reporting Requirements](#)

[Keeping Good Rental Records](#)

[Protecting Your Property](#)

[US Embassy Announcements](#)

[Check your VISA Application Status in India](#)

[E-Verify Employers & Federal Contractors List](#)

[Copycat "Immigration Help" Sites](#)

[CPT/OPT Seminars](#)

[Studying Abroad](#)

[International Student Arrests & Public Safety](#)

"Success – keeping your mind awake and your desire asleep." - **Walter Scott**

Stay informed about the latest news, important reminders and updates



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