

Scam Alert Targeting International Students

The University of Rhode Island Department of Public Safety is issuing this alert to the members of our community, with a special emphasis on International students.

Information has been provided to the Department of Public Safety regarding the specifics on an incident involving an International student at another higher education institution. It was reported that the student received a phone call from an individual claiming to be an agent of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). After this “agent” attempted to verify some personal information he informed the student that there were problems with his/her tax returns and that he/she was going to be arrested by the police. This “agent” then made an offer that the student could avoid arrest by posting a sum of money, which would be refundable. The “agent” also stated that if the student did not cooperate then he/she would face serious consequences including possible deportation. The “agent” attempted to determine if this student could raise the money needed and advised the student that the money would need to be posted that day, stating that he would provide the student with instructions as to where to bring the money. When the student asked for a day to speak with his/her advisors, the “agent” said it would be too late and that the police would be coming to arrest the student. The student became suspicious and refused to participate. This was subsequently reported to law enforcement.

This information is being provided to alert our community of this scam. In the event that anyone receives similar contacts you are urged to hang up and notify the URI Police as soon as possible. If you are not on campus then a report should be made to the local police department. This can also be reported to the IRS via their fraud page at - <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Report-Phishing>.