



Factsheet about scams targeting Chinese Students

October 2023

Recently there has been an increase in scammers using tactics to threaten, intimidate and steal from Chinese students. We want you to know:

- what this scam looks like
- what you can do if a scammer approaches you while you are studying in Australia
- where you can get help within Australia

What this scam looks like

- Scammers phone the victim, initially pretending to be from a phone company or financial institution.
- They inform the victim that their phone or identity is being used in a scam or in serious financial crime.
- When the victim says that they are not aware of their phone or identity being used like this, they are transferred by the scammer to another scammer pretending to be the Chinese police.
 - The number seen on caller ID during the transfer will look like the official police phone number as scammers are using telephone spoofing technology.
- The victim is told they may be extradited to China or deported. However, the victim is offered the chance to remain in Australia while the investigation takes place, on the condition of a payment.
- The scammers use technology to create fake documentation including arrest warrants.
- This scam can involve calls from different people and sometimes video calls with what appear to be Chinese police.
- There have also been reports of a person dressed as a police officer visiting the Australian homes of the victims to deliver documentation.

What to do if a scammer contacts you

- International students should act cautiously if something feels wrong.
 - Don't be pressured by a threatening caller asking you to prove you have not been involved in a crime.
 - Hang up and don't respond.
 - Don't provide money to any person you don't know, who contacts you over the phone and asks you to give them money.
- Don't engage with the caller and do not follow their instructions. If you do, they will escalate their intimidation tactics and attempt to get your money.
- Never leave your camera on because someone has instructed you to.
- If you are concerned for your safety, contact the police immediately by calling 000.

Where you can get help

- If you are contacted by a scammer, don't panic. You can speak to:
 - the local police in Australia. The police are here to help you.
 - the international student support unit within your education institution.
 - your local Australian-Chinese community support service.
- International students who have been contacted by someone trying to scam them should contact the police.
 - To report a crime that is not an emergency, phone 131 444.
 - For emergencies, you should phone 000.
- [Scamwatch](#), an Australian Government website, provides information about how to recognise, avoid and report scams.
- [IDCARE](#) can assist you if you experience scams and fraudulent activity. They can be contacted on 1800 595 160.

