Job Scam, Housing Scam and other types of scam. How to avoid it?
Job / Housing Scam

5 ways how to recognize job or housing scam:
Scam: 5 ways how to recognize job & housing scam

1. If it looks too good to be true, it probably is!
2. Don’t sign a contract if you are not sure if it’s a real company / person. If you are not sure, contact us (the International Office, AV or AStA) directly!

Example: The “company” won’t be typically based in Aachen or in Germany. Housing scammers will never invite you to see the apartment or schedule a personal meeting.
Scam: 5 ways how to recognize job & housing scam

3.
If they say the company / the landlord is in another city / another country and you have to “sign / pay online”, make sure it is really true.

Example: The landlord is “abroad because of a new job and will send the key to you per post”.
Scam: 5 ways how to recognize job & housing scam

How to avoid scam? 9. November 2021
- Dez. 2.0 International Office - Abt. 2.2. Betreuung – Info Service Center - Stanislava Petkova – international@rwth-aachen.de
- AV – AusländerInnenvertretung / Foreigners’ representation – av.rwth-aachen.de
Scam: 5 ways how to recognize job & housing scam

Hello,

thank you, it looks great.
I can move in directly as I do not have any apartment right now and I am living with friends. I would like to stay for my whole Bachelor studies at least, which would be minimum three years. When can I come and see the apartment?

Thank you,
Silvia

—

Pictures Silvia ▶ Index ▶

Here are some of the flat pictures attached. When did you intend to move in and for how long did you want to rent?

12 Attachments

Room 2.jpg

Room 2.jpg

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Hello,

to Colin

thank you, it looks great.
I can move in directly as I do not have any apartment right now and I am living with friends. I would like to stay for my whole Bachelor studies at least, which would be minimum three years. When can I come and see the apartment?

Thank you
Silvia

The contract’s length are up to discussion, as I am flexible with dates, although I would prefer signing a permanent contract so starting with three years is perfect. Unfortunately viewing the flat will not be possible now because I am not in the country at the moment due to my new job. I just relocated here in England, due to my urgent relocation I have the flat keys here with me. I left with the hope of coming back soon but right now the work has taken me to stay long term, I signed a five-year’s job contract with my new company. (Hurricane Energy) That’s why I have made up my mind to put up my apartment for rent. Since I will not be around for the next five years.

As I write to you now I am currently on my first-time start-up training at Hurricane Energy training center. Which I never knew will start so soon you can only decide with the flat pictures I have sent you earlier and if the picture arose your interest you can inform me and I will tell you how to proceed further.

Hello,

to Colin

ok, thank you for the information. Yes the pictures are nice and I am still interested, as I do not have another option anyway. How would I take the keys then?

Kindly let me know what the next steps are.
Scam: 5 ways how to recognize job & housing scam

If you are interested in renting the room you will have to sign the lease contract agreement with me here. I will only need your details for the contract to be prepared; the contract will be prepared and send to you. You will have to print out the contract and sign then scan it back to me here immediately so that I can also sign the contract. You will have to make the payment of the rent plus the deposit to me here so that I can also get the flat keys posted to your current address immediately through DHL courier service and it will arrive to your current address exactly 24hrs after posted here. Here are the details needed for the contract to be prepared:

Your full name and Address.

Date of birth

Phone number

Profession

Marriage status

Nationality

Date to move in and out

An address where the flat keys will be posted to.

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4.
If you are not sure about the company / identity of the landlord, don’t send a copy of your documents! Don’t trust copies of passports either.
5.
Make sure that your potential tasks in the job would be legal tasks.

Example: receiving packages at your home and forwarding them is illegal!
How to avoid scam?

Hint:

Scammers would often contact you themselves without you having contacted them previously.
How to avoid scam?

Hint:

Never ignore letters sent per post. Usually these are important and require an answer / reaction!
Hint:

In case you have already signed a fake contract, please go to the police and file a report!
Foreigners‘ Representation - AV

- International students’ representation at the university
- Legal consultations free of charge to international students
Official STAWAG employees will:

- **never** ask for cash payment or payment on the spot. You will always get a bill sent per post.
- **always** have picture ID visible. If you are not sure, you can also call STAWAG and ask them to confirm that they have sent an employee out.
Builders / Handworkers / Plumbers / Chimney Sweepers

Hint:

The only time you should allow repair workers to enter, is if your landlord has informed you about their visit! Unannounced visits should be ignored or please call your landlord and confirm.
How to avoid scam?

Remember:

If you are not sure whether the ad is a scam, contact us at international@rwth-aachen.de.

Don’t let anyone pressure you into signing a contract and sending copies of your documents before you are certain of the contract’s legitimacy.
Thank you for your attention!

Info Service Center of the International Office: international@rwth-aachen.de
@rwthinternationaloffice

AV (AusländerInnenvertretung): av@av.rwth-aachen.de
@avrwth