Secret/Mystery Shopper/Gift Card Scams

• Several students have been victimized by a “Secret Shopper” or Gift Card scams

• Background: some marketing/merchandising companies hire “secret” or “mystery” shoppers as a quality assurance measure. Such anonymous shoppers make a particular purchase in a store and then report on the experience. Typically, the shopper is reimbursed and sometimes the shopper keeps the purchase and/or receives a small payment

• In these scams, students are emailed a secret shopper employment offer, sometimes from a fellow student’s compromised email account
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• If a student responds, they will typically be asked to purchase gift cards and provide the card codes with the promise of reimbursement/payment
• Of course the reimbursement never comes
• The fact that legitimate secret shopper jobs exist bolsters the credibility of the scam. The offer email may also refer to a CUNY “job placement” office.

What can we do?
  • Educate students of the scam through advisory communications
  • Work with student groups, Student Affairs, etc., to get the word out

https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0053-mystery-shopper-scams
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Hello,
This job is currently recruiting. A job that will not affect your present employment or studies, fun and rewarding. You get to make up to $300 weekly, I tried it and I made cool cash. If you are interested you can visit their website at [www.timecodeoutsourcing.com](http://www.timecodeoutsourcing.com) to apply and read more about the job.

Best regards,
Job Placement & Student Services
City University of New York
University Offices
205 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2018 7:25 AM
Subject: Part-time Job

You have been selected as a Secret Shopper in your area. A job that will not affect your present employment or sign up fee. It’s fun, rewarding and flexible. You can make up to $1000 weekly also, to view details of the job and apply please visit our website:

[https://tinyurl.com/[redacted]](https://tinyurl.com/[redacted])

Regards

No such office exists, but a student may not know that. Lucrative potential earnings offer (fake) helps lure victims.
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From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2018 5:57 AM
Subject: Sign Up! Extra Earning Seeking Female and Male model

Hello
How are you doing. This Job is currently recruiting. A Modeling Job that will not affect your present employment or studies and no sign up fee. Its fun, rewarding and flexible.
You can make up to $5000 weekly.

To view details of the Job and apply go to the link (https://www.cognitoforms.com/[Redacted]) and text this number [Redacted].

Job Placement & Student Services
[Redacted] College
New York NY [Redacted]

Referral to earn extra

Tue 6/26/2018 10:50 AM

Good Day,

Jigsy shopper is currently seeking to employ individuals in the United States of America for the on going shoppers survey program. A job that will not affect your present employment & no sign up fee. It’s fun, rewarding and flexible. You can make up to $1000 weekly also, try it and make cool cash. Visit our website for more details. www.shadowwshopper.jigsy.com