

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

Secret/Mystery Shopper/Gift Card Scams

- 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>

Secret/Mystery Shopper/Gift Card Scams

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 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

No such office exists, but a student may not know that.

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 & no 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

Lucrative potential earnings offer (fake) helps lure victims

Secret/Mystery Shopper/Gift Card Scams

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 \$500 weekly.

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

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

Referral to earn extra

[REDACTED]
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