



SAFETY ALERT

2019-001

On Wednesday, Jan. 16, a CMU student received a telephone call from an individual pretending to be from the Chinese Embassy. The caller told the student she was the subject of a money laundering investigation in China, and that to prevent her deportation back to China she must submit \$29,000 as “collateral” to remain in the U.S. The student was then provided step-by-step instructions on how to electronically transfer funds from her local bank to an international bank.

We understand that this is not an isolated incident. We’ve learned that calls pretending to come from the Chinese Embassy or U.S. government agencies are occurring nationwide. We’ve also heard from a local bank that several other attempted scams have recently occurred in the Pittsburgh area.

No government agency will ever demand money or conduct business in this fashion. You should never comply with such requests, and never provide personal information, such as your social security number, bank account number or credit card number, to anyone you don’t know. If you receive such a call, hang up and immediately report the call to University Police at 412-268-2323.

In closing, I encourage you to be extra aware of your surroundings and vigilant as the new semester gets underway. Please report any suspicious individuals or activities to University Police at 412-268-2323.

Sincerely,

Lt. Joseph Meyers
Carnegie Mellon University Police