BANK OF AMERICA

# Know the scams

## Scams that typically target students

Scammers use different tactics to get victims to fall for their schemes. In some cases, they can be friendly, sympathetic and seem willing to help. In others, they use fear tactics to persuade a victim. The following list shows typical scam messages and the red flags that should cause you concern.

### 1 Check cashing

**Typical message:** "Excuse me, I left my wallet home, can you cash this check for me?"

**Red flags include:** You're approached outside a bank branch and asked to cash a check for someone who claims they don't have an account or left their ID home. The bad check will be held against your account when it doesn't clear.

### 2 Fake goods

**Typical message:** "We can offer you those goods at a considerably lower price than retail."

**Red flags include:** You're asked to pay a very low price for typically expensive items (for example: $49 for a $300 pair of sneakers). Never transfer money (for example, by using Zelle®[1]) to someone you don't know.

### 3 Fake rental

**Typical message:** "Hi, I see you received my rental deposit and wanted to follow up about the move in date."

**Red flags include:** Your house is legitimately listed for sale online, but scammers have set up a fake website and listed your house as a rental. You receive inquiries from prospective renters about deposit checks they sent you (which they really sent to the scammer).

### 4 Overpayment

**Typical message:** "Go ahead and deposit the check and wire the difference to the account number attached."

**Red flags include:** You receive an overpayment for an item you're selling, immediately followed by a request to deposit the check (which turns out to be a bad check) and then send the difference via a wire or gift card.

### 5 Student aid

**Typical message:** "Your student aid is at risk: Click this link to verify your information and validate your security."

**Red flags include:** The link in the email isn't familiar and the message has grammatical errors and doesn't address the student by name.

### 6 Tech support

**Typical message:** "We've detected malware on your computer, let's go ahead and get this fixed for you."

**Red flags include:** You receive a request from tech support claiming your computer has malware and requesting payment to fix the defects or access your computer.

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