Identity theft can cause serious long-term problems. If an identity thief gets your personal information, they can apply for credit, set up services, or otherwise misuse the information.

Identity thieves have specifically targeted international students in recent years, so it is important to protect your personal information and be careful while online.

1. USCIS, the IRS, or any other police or governmental agency will NEVER contact you by email or phone to ask for your personal information.

2. These agencies will NOT email or call to tell you about tax or immigration violations, a potential arrest, or taxes and fines. They will, also, not ask you to pay a fine over the phone.

3. The University of Minnesota will NOT ask you to provide personal information in email or on an unsecured website.

4. NEVER open, respond to, or click on links in a suspicious email (even if it appears to be from an official source).

If you receive a phone call or email telling you any of these things, IT IS FAKE—even if your caller ID shows the name or phone number for USCIS or another law enforcement agency.

Do not pay money or give your personal information in response to their threats. Contact the University of Minnesota Police at 612-624-2677.

Learn more at z.umn.edu/idtheftisss