Special ALERT –

*A real government agency will never call you and demand immediate payment to “avoid deportation” or “avoid arrest”, etc.*

In mid-October, ISS sent out an alert about a number of new money scams that RIT international students have fallen victim to this fall. Another scam just happened yesterday in which a caller claimed to be from the IRS about “back taxes that need to be paid by end of day to avoid arrest“.

Please, if you receive a phone call, letter, or email from anyone claiming to be the police, the IRS, Immigration, or any other government agency, please hang up and contact RIT Public Safety (585-475-3333) to report the details. You can also consult my office if you have any questions. If you feel the caller is legitimate, (and they are not asking you for any personal information or to engage in any financial transactions), you can ask them to set up a meeting with you on campus at ISS by telling them to call RIT Public Safety (475-3333), or Jeff Cox at ISS (475-6943).

**Do NOT give out any personal information to these people.** If a real government agency wishes to make contact with you, they will normally contact you in one of the following ways:

1. A paper letter (which you can bring to our office and we’ll help you respond).
2. (very rare) A local Brighton Police Officer in uniform, or a Monroe County Sheriff in uniform, knocking at your door, possibly accompanied by a US Immigration officer. You are allowed to ask for identification from all officers. You can also ask them to contact RIT Public Safety to let RIT know where they are taking you in the event that you are arrested (this is exceptionally rare).

Please be very skeptical of any calls or emails of this nature, hang up the phone, and report it immediately. Do not make any payments, or agree to accept any payments from anyone other than an employer for whom you have been authorized to work (for example: RIT, a Co-op, OPT, or Academic Training).

Good luck on your finals and please let us know if you need help (but we can’t help you on your finals, you’re on your own for those!)

Jeff Cox
Director, International Student Services