

Job Hunters are Unaware of the Signs of a Job Scam

Given the advancements in today's technology, it's only fitting that the task of looking for a job has become a digital one, as workers increasingly use online job sites, social networks and search engines to find the next step for their career. However, with this new digital age comes a can of fraudulent worms, and new research from CV-Library suggests that job hunters simply aren't savvy enough when it comes to recognising the signs of a job scam.

Partnered with SAFERjobs, an e-crime non-profit organisation which operates in association with the Met Police, CV-Library conducted a survey amongst over 2,000 of the UK's professionals. The research aimed to uncover just how much the nation's professionals know about job scams, and the results reveal a worrying lack of understanding and awareness, and suggest that today's job hunters may be putting themselves at risk.

Could you Recognise a Job Scam?

Disturbingly, almost three-quarters (72.1%) of job hunters admitted that they do not know and would not recognise the signs of a job scam, while a huge 71.3% of workers revealed that they would assume any job posted online is a legitimate posting from a real business.

But in perhaps the most troubling news of all, a staggering 98% of job hunters said that even if they did feel suspicious, and felt that a job may not be legitimate, they would still continue with the application.

While it's great news for the UK's workers that the job market is flourishing and that there is an abundance of opportunities available, this also comes with a downside; such a wealth of jobs and opportunities can make it even easier for scammers to hide amongst genuine postings and take advantage of unsuspecting candidates.

But the good news is that at Aspire Jobs we use automated and manual tools to ensure every job posting is legitimate; though there are other platforms that fraudsters use to lure their victims, and it's critical that job hunters are educated on the risk of online job scams.

This is what to look out for...

In order of commonality, here are some key indicators of a job scam:

- *Personal email addresses i.e. joebloggs@hotmail.com*
- *Regular spelling and grammatical mistakes, which could indicate poor translation*
- *Unrealistic salaries (if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is)*
- *Stating 'No Experience Necessary' as a job title*
- *A job offer without an interview*
- *Extortionate DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) costs (anything over £75 should be queried), or requesting a candidate to pay for a CRB check (Criminal Records Bureau), which no longer exists*
- *Premium rate phone numbers for interviews*

- *Illegitimate company names and web addresses*

Vigilance is Key – Use a SAFERjobs site

The reality is that today's job hunters have to be vigilant, as there are many job sites out there that don't work to protect candidates from scams, ultimately leaving them open to falling victim. The best advice is simply to use a site that is partnered with SAFERjobs, as this partnership indicates that proactive measures are being taken to fight scammers.

Furthermore, the research suggests that education on the subject of job scams should be a priority, as many respondents were unable to correctly identify the signs of a scam. For example:

- *Over half of workers (58.3%) do not know what a DBS check is, wrongly identifying CRB as an appropriate security check, despite the switch being made in 2012*
- *When asked to pay for their own security checks, 58.5% could not estimate how much it should cost them*
- *8% would not check the authenticity of a job post's web address before applying*
- *Only 6.8% of job hunters felt that being offered a job without an interview would indicate a hoax*

However, being aware of the warning signs and looking out for them in each job posting should result in more fraudulent postings being picked up on; a scam is likely to contain a series of red flags rather than one sole element. For example, if a job is advertising an unrealistic salary whilst suggesting that no experience is necessary and both are riddled with typos, then this should ring alarm bells.

That's not to say that there aren't jobs out there that might include the odd mistake, or may not require specific experience, but it's always best to check with the site on which the job is advertised; any reputable site partnered with SAFERjobs would be happy to look into a posting on a candidate's behalf to ensure safety and peace of mind.

To truly combat this crime, awareness of job scams and the tricks criminals use is key; it's vital that the general public know what to look out for and remain vigilant in their job search. Job hunters should always use trusted sites such as CV-Library, and keep the signs of a scam in mind when looking for work online.

Source Credit: CV Library

If you would like to talk about any aspect of your job hunt, then please give me a call 07974 429217 or [click here](#) to send an email
