



HARVARD UNIVERSITY
Office of the Vice Provost
for Research

Fraudulent Activity by Persons Posing as Harvard Researchers Conducting a Survey

Please be aware of the following survey scheme targeting international university students and perhaps others: Individuals posing as Harvard researchers/research analysts have been posting online (either on websites or Facebook groups) requesting that university students and perhaps others participate in a student satisfaction survey in order to be entered into a drawing for a prize (usually an Apple product like a MacBook or iPad). The survey participant is then contacted, informed that they have “won the prize,” and asked for payment information for the shipping fee.

Characteristics of the Research Survey Scheme:

- Requests for survey participants have previously come from individuals using the following aliases: George Belle, Riley Harrington, and Angela Wert. It is possible that new aliases will be used in the future.
- Emails have been sent using fake Harvard affiliated email addresses that falsely suggest an affiliation with Harvard, such as: harvard.edu@writeme.com, harvard.info@execs.com, harvard.edu@post.com, harvard.edu@secretary.net, harvardprovost@execs.com, and harvard.edu@adexec.com.
- The email correspondence is made to look like an official Harvard communication, including by use of a Harvard logo and references to Harvard officials.
- The aliases have also been used to set up fake social media accounts falsely suggesting these individuals are connected with Harvard.
- Recruiting participants who “must not be from the US to take part” in this study.
- Offering a signed certificate for participation made to look like an official Harvard certificate.
- Claims that the survey participant has won a prize (usually a MacBook or iPad) and requesting the participant pay a fee for shipping the prize.

Harvard community members: please contact RMAS-FraudAlert@harvard.edu if you become aware of these types of survey schemes, either through direct receipt or outreach from a participant. Other suspicious emails should be forwarded to phishing@harvard.edu. For more information about Phishing, please visit [HUIT Security](#).