

IRS Impersonation Scam Targets University Students & Staff

The IRS has warned of an ongoing IRS impersonation scam that appears to primarily target educational institutions, including students and staff who have ".edu" email addresses. (IR 2021-68, 3/30/2021)

The IRS said that it has been receiving a stream of complaints about the impersonation scheme in recent weeks. "The phishing emails appear to target university and college students from both public and private, profit and non-profit institutions," the IRS stated.

The suspect emails display the IRS logo and use various subject lines such as "Tax Refund Payment" or "Recalculation of Your Tax Refund Payment." Recipients are asked to click on a link and submit a form to claim their refund. The phishing website asks for the following information: Social Security number; full name; date of birth; prior year annual gross income; driver's license number; complete current address; and Electronic Filing PIN.

The IRS warned that people who receive such an email should not click on the link it contains.