



UNIVERSITY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

Off Campus
Student Services

How to Avoid Rental SCAMS

What is a rental scam?

Rental fraud happens when would-be tenants are tricked into paying an upfront fee to rent a property. In reality, the property does not exist, has already been rented out, or has been rented to multiple victims at the same time.

Helpful Tips

- Never deal with or mail cash
- Demand a written lease
- Meet the landlord in person
- See the apartment in person before signing a lease or transferring funds
- Speak with the current tenants
- Be aware of current market rates

Any questions about scams?

Contact Off-Campus
Student Services at
usfcaoffcampus@usfca.edu
(415)422-4057

Red Flags

- Stock photos
- Cannot find address online
- Asked to wire money for any reason
- Price is significantly lower than average

