

A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS SEEKING SUMMER JOBS

2025



勞工處
Labour Department

Watch out for Common Employment Traps

Stay Alert when Seeking Jobs. Watch Out for Employment Traps



Many students look for summer jobs during their summer holiday, hoping to gain pocket money as well as working experience. With limited social experience, they will easily fall prey to scammers' devious employment traps. When facing unfamiliar recruitment processes and procedures, students should stay alert and vigilant. Try to understand the job nature thoroughly and assess qualifications and suitability for the job you apply, and beware of online frauds and jobs that offer unreasonably high salaries. Lack of cautiousness may lead to financial loss or even unwitting involvement in criminal activities. In the theme of a travel guide, this leaflet leads you embarking on a thrilling adventure to illustrate the prevalent job traps aiming at young people looking for summer jobs and sharing various smart tips against the traps so that you can have a brilliant employment experience!

Besides, as fresh job-seekers, young people must pay attention to industrial safety and avoid taking up dangerous work (e.g. construction work, operation of heavy machinery, handling of chemicals and corrosive substance as well as work processes involving extremely high temperature). You should use safety equipment provided by employers and strictly follow all safety regulations at work.



Illegal Work



Trafficking syndicates promote via **social platforms** job openings which allegedly enable young people to **earn “easy money” comfortably at home**, aiming at luring them to provide their personal bank account for **money laundering purpose**. Money laundering is a serious offence, with highest penalty upon conviction being 14-year imprisonment and a fine of \$5 million. Apart from this, an increasing trend was observed in similar activities luring young people to engage in other illegal activities, such as drug trafficking, smuggling of prohibited goods, illegal fund raising, illegal debt collecting, online scamming and online selling of counterfeit goods, etc. Young people should stay away from such kind of dubious jobs so as to avoid getting into trouble or ending up with criminal record that will ruin their future.



Talent Scout Scams



Posing as **representatives of entertainment companies, modelling agencies or dubbing studios**, swindlers approach net-surfers or passers-by on the pretext of job referrals in the entertainment industry, but requiring job-seekers to **pay for training, beauty treatments, fitness courses for a chance to enter an audition**. Job-seekers may even be asked to pay referral fees or deposits, only to find out later that everything is made up and there is no way to get their money back.

Vice Traps

Vice trap swindlers often deceive young people by setting up bogus recruitments for posts such as public relations officers, models and cyber friends, using inflated claims like **“hefty pay”, “no requirement on work experience”** and **“free overseas trips”** without stating actual job duties. Young people in lack of social experience may only realise that the job is in fact a vice trap after they have started working, and face threats to personal safety when attempting to withdraw from the scene.



Pyramid Schemes



Some unscrupulous direct sales companies hold **recruitment talks** or make use of **online platforms** to attract job-seekers by handsome pay with commission and coax them into buying goods and joining the sales business. Operating by **hierarchical sharing of commission**, instead of earning their income through sale of goods, it is the **"participation fees" solicited from new "staff" (also known as "lower-tier members")** being utilised to repay the **"salary" of those in upper tiers**. Thinking they could make a big fortune, some job-seekers even **overdrew their credit card accounts or borrowed money from financial institutions** in order to stock valueless products excessively, and ultimately suffer huge loss when sales are sluggish. Some may eventually go bankrupt due to over-borrowing. It is also not uncommon for relatives of the new participants being embroiled in the scam through invitation.

Fake Clicks

In recent years, swindlers often invite job-seekers to participate in paid surveys through instant messaging applications to further recruit 'internet skills' in the name of **'click farmers', 'data creators' and 'likerst'** allegedly for boosting the sales and popularity of online merchants. The names may vary, but they all share the same modus operandi. To set up the trap, they will ask job-seekers to **deposit money into swindlers' bank accounts** in the name of online shopping on their **fake platforms**, and **claimed that refund will be available** afterwards as it is just a false transaction to boost sales. Job-seekers would usually be able to get a refund together with the "reward" after the first few transactions, but this is just a trick by the swindlers to lure them to go further into the trap. When the job-seekers made **bigger purchases**, the swindlers would use various excuses to withhold payment and claimed that larger purchases were required to obtain full refund. Eventually, when the job seekers become more deeply entangled, the swindlers would swiftly abscond with all their money, leaving them high and dry.



Suspicious Job Titles often used by swindlers

**Order Processing
Officer**

**Order
Assistant**

Order Clerk

**Online
Administrative
Assistant**

Loan Deception Scams

Scammers post deceptive recruitment messages on internet forums and social media platforms to bait job-seekers with camouflage posts like “**assets transfer scheme**”, “**account handling officer**”, “**remitter**” and “**mystery shopper**” offering “quick money” and “hefty commission”. They will then entice the job-seekers into **getting personal loans**, alleging that it is just a part of the daily work and **repayment is not required**. During the recruitment process, the fraudsters would even invite the victims to discuss job details at the lobby of a premier commercial building to make themselves look more credible. Job-seekers will only realise that is not the case after the scammers disappeared into thin air with their money obtained from the loan.

Experience is not required

Good salary



Unreasonable Fees

During job interviews, swindlers often make excuses that the candidates do not possess the required skills for the job, and **require them to pay for expensive training courses** in order to make themselves more capable for it. Apart from this, swindlers use the pretext of recruitment to impose on job-seekers unreasonable fees such as **registration fee, data processing fee, administration fee, uniform cleaning fee and documentation fee**. Even if the job-seekers later realise that it is a scam, they would not be able to get their money back.



Suspicious Job Titles often used by swindlers

**Browser Heat
Communicator**

Reviewer

Order Taker

**Shopping
Assistant**

Investment Scams



Some unscrupulous “employers” hire young and inexperienced job-seekers to take up elementary positions like clerks, junior secretaries, receptionists, with a view to luring them to buy “**investment products with extremely high returns**”, which are in fact **fraudulent investment vehicles**. They will then be persuaded to make investments, **take up the post of investment consultant** and even invite their families and friends to make investments. In the end, all invested sum will be drained off with the excuse of investment loss.

Overseas Employment Fraud

Recently, there have been reports of Hong Kong citizens being lured online by crime syndicates with lucrative job offers to work in **Southeast Asian countries** and have then lost contact with their families or being detained after arrival. Be cautious of the recruitment advertisements on the internet or social media, which claim to offer “quick money” opportunities or high paying jobs that **require no qualifications or work experience**. Another commonality of such fraudulent jobs is the reluctance of the alleged employers to disclose their company information in recruitment advertisements, and simply leave their social media or instant messaging application accounts for contact. Lacking material information, job seekers often found themselves being deceived only upon arrival and detention, and eventually being **detained** and coerced by crime syndicates to partake in illegal activities. Immense effort will be required to rescue victims out of such perilous situation.



Tips on “Beware of Employment Traps”

Tip1 “Be careful and watch out for attractive offer”

Be careful with choosing a job through **reliable channels only** and don't be hasty simply because the working period is short. Beware of job offers with unreasonably high salary and too simple duties, or with a very lax recruitment process. It is likely that such jobs bear illegal elements. If you are being asked to **traffic drugs or prohibited goods**, or to engage in any illegal dealings, you should boldly refuse. Follow the law.

Good Slaary

Recruiting full-time
and part-time employees

Tip2 “Take good care of personal safety, personal data and belongings”

Ensure your personal safety and mind your **personal belongings as well as identity documents** when attending job interviews. Refrain from attending interviews outside employer's premises, and go along with a relative or friend if the interview is conducted at an unfamiliar or a remote place. Access carefully any request for **personal data** in the course of job application. Don't give important personal information or documents such as the ID card number, credit card number or ATM card password, as well as any **one-time password (OTP)** received by your mobile phone casually to others, so as to prevent your personal information being used fraudulently by swindlers, e.g. applying personal loans or performing online transactions.



Addresses and
Telephone Numbers
for Enquiries

When looking for summer jobs, you may have questions on job vacancies, employment legislations and occupational safety, etc. Here are some useful telephone numbers and addresses for enquiries:

Labour Department
Job Cetnres (Hong Kong Island)

Admiralty Job Centre

 **2591 1318**

North Point Job Centre

 **2114 6868**

Tip3 “Know your employer and study employment contract well”

Before accepting a job offer, **check the company's background and understand its business**, for example whether the company is **registered in Hong Kong** and **if the company address or company name matches with the place of interview**. **Know your rights** under the Employment Ordinance and study well each term in the employment contract before signing. Don't yield to persuasion if you are asked to take up posts with duties different from those described in job advertisements or during interviews. Refuse immediately if being asked to pay **administration fee, deposit**, etc or to apply for loans. Please also note that persons who sign a service contract on a **self-employed basis** or as **non-employees** shall have no employer-employee relationship with the contracting company. They are not entitled to the protection under the Employment Ordinance.



Labour Department Job Centres (Kowloon)

Kwun Tong Job Centre
☎ 2342 0486

Kowloon West Job Centre
☎ 2150 6397

Kowloon East Job Centre
☎ 2338 9787

Labour Department Job Centre (New Territories)

New Territories West Job Centre
☎ 2463 9967

Tsuen Wan Job Centre
☎ 2417 6197

Shatin Job Centre
☎ 2158 5553

Sheung Shui Job Centre
☎ 3692 4532

Tung Chung Job Centre
☎ 3428 2943



Tip4 "Stay vigilant during online job-hunting"

It is very convenient for job-seekers to look for jobs and contact prospective employers through the internet, but at the same time online swindlers and syndicates are more rampant as they can conceal their identity online. Young job-seekers without much experience will easily fall prey to their traps. Job seekers should **carefully verify the authenticity of online employment information** and utilize **credible online recruitment platforms or official information pages of employers** to obtain reliable employment information. Do not provide personal data or passwords casually to others via social platforms and instant messaging applications, and not to make online payments or to perform any dubious transaction. Be extremely cautious if employers do not disclose their company information in recruitment advertisements, or just leave their **social media or instant messaging application accounts** for contact.

Recruitment



Tip5 "Be informed of current affairs and seek help when necessary"

Swindlers never run out of defrauding tricks. Keep abreast of **current affairs and be informed of recent employment traps**. On the other hand, you should not offer any advantages like referral fees to company staff or foremen when seeking for jobs, or you might be liable to offences under the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance. If you are in doubt or are cheated, seek assistance from your family members, teachers or related government departments / organisations as soon as possible.

Recruitment

Recruitment of
experienced workers

Industry-based
Recruitment Centres

Recruitment Centre for
the Retail Industry

☎ 3847 7611

Recruitment Centre
for the Catering Industry

☎ 3847 7600

Construction Industry
Recruitment Centre

☎ 3428 3303



Other branch offices of the Labour Department

ment

Employees' Compensation Division & Labour Relations Division

Enquiry hotline: ☎ 2717 1771

**(the hotline is handled by "1823")*

Occupational Safety & Health Branch (Occupational Safety)

14/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong
☎ 2559 2297

Occupational Safety & Health Branch (Occupational Health)

15/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong
☎ 2852 4041



Hong Kong Police Force
Anti-Deception Coordination Centre
☎ 18222

Other Departments or Organisations

Social Welfare Department
Enquiries on organisations granted
with Public Subscription Permit
☎ 2832 4324

Commercial and Technology Crime Hotline
☎ 2860 5012

Consumer Council
Consumer Complaint & Enquiry Hotline
☎ 2929 2222

Education Bureau
Careers Guidance Service
(including information on overseas studies)
☎ 3698 4126

Hong Kong Association of
Careers Masters & Guidance Masters
☎ 2671 1722



Please scan the QR code on the right
for up-to-date addresses and contact
information of Job Centres

This leaflet provides general information on detecting employment traps and advice to students on seeking summer jobs. If you wish to obtain the English version of this leaflet, please visit www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/ or contact the Employment Information and Promotion Programme Office of the Labour Department at 2153 3975.

Summer Jobs
Employment
Webpage



Interactive Employment
Service Website:
<https://www.jobs.gov.hk>

