

Scam Awareness Guide

Protect Yourself When Using Career Advisory & Job Search Services

Finding a job overseas is an exciting opportunity, but unfortunately many job seekers are targeted by fraudsters pretending to offer career advice, recruitment services or guaranteed employment. Every year, thousands of professionals lose money to fake agencies, fraudulent job offers and identity theft.

This guide will help you recognise common scams and protect yourself when engaging career advisory or job search companies.

Common Career Advisory Scams

1. Guaranteed Job Offers

Be cautious of companies that claim:

- "100% guaranteed job placement."
- "Guaranteed GCC work visa."
- "Guaranteed interview."
- "Guaranteed employment within 30 days."

The Reality - No genuine career consultancy or recruitment company can guarantee that an employer will hire you. Hiring decisions are always made by the employer.

2. Fake Recruitment Agencies

Fraudsters may create professional-looking websites and social media pages pretending to represent well-known employers.

Warning signs include:

- No physical office address.
- No company registration details.
- Recently created websites or social media accounts.
- Poor grammar and spelling.
- Requests for payment before providing any service.

Always verify that the company is legally registered in the country where it operates.

3. Paying for a Job

A genuine employer should not ask you to pay to receive a job offer, be suspicious if you are asked to pay for:

- Job placement fees
- Guaranteed interviews
- Employment approvals
- Recruitment licences
- Work permits (without clear explanation)
- "Priority candidate" status

Some career advisory companies legitimately charge for professional services such as CV writing, interview coaching or career guidance. These fees should be clearly explained and should never be presented as payment to secure employment.

4. Fake Visa Services

Scammers often promise:

- Instant work visas
- Guaranteed visa approvals
- Fast-track immigration
- "Special government connections"

Remember:

- Work visas are normally issued only after an employer sponsors your employment.
 - No private company can guarantee visa approval.
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5. Fake Employer Emails - Fraudulent emails often:

- Use free email accounts instead of company domains.
- Request personal information immediately.
- Offer unusually high salaries.
- Skip interviews completely.
- Ask for urgent payments.

Always verify the sender's email address and contact the company through its official website if you are unsure.

6. Identity Theft

Never send copies of your:

- Passport
- National identity documents
- Banking information
- Credit card details
- Passwords
- One-time verification codes (OTP)

Only share documents when you are confident the organisation is genuine and understands why the documents are required.

7. Fake Interview Invitations

Some scammers invite candidates to interviews solely to request money later, warning signs include:

- Interview invitations without an application.
 - No interview questions or assessment.
 - Immediate job offers.
 - Requests to pay before starting work.
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8. Social Media Scams

Fraudsters frequently use:

- WhatsApp
- Telegram
- Facebook
- Instagram
- LinkedIn

Be cautious if someone contacts you unexpectedly offering a high-paying job without reviewing your qualifications.

How to Choose a Genuine Career Advisory Company

Before purchasing services, check:

- The company is legally registered.
 - The business has a professional website.
 - Contact details are easy to verify.
 - Service descriptions and pricing are transparent.
 - There are genuine customer reviews from multiple sources.
 - Terms and conditions are available.
 - Privacy policies explain how your data will be used.
 - You receive a receipt or invoice for any paid service.
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Questions to Ask Before Paying

- What services are included?
 - What is the expected timeline?
 - Who will provide the service?
 - Is the fee for advice or for job placement?
 - Will I receive a written agreement or invoice?
 - How will my personal information be protected?
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Warning Signs

Stop and investigate further if a company:

- Guarantees employment.
 - Pressures you to pay immediately.
 - Refuses to provide a written agreement.
 - Cannot explain its services clearly.
 - Avoids answering your questions.
 - Requests payment into a personal bank account.
 - Uses only messaging apps for communication.
 - Makes unrealistic salary promises.
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Protecting Your Personal Information

Always:

- Use strong passwords for your email and job search accounts.
 - Enable two-factor authentication where available.
 - Share documents only through secure channels.
 - Remove unnecessary personal information from publicly shared documents.
 - Monitor your bank accounts for unexpected activity.
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Safe Payment Practices

If you purchase career advisory services:

- Pay only through recognised business payment methods.
 - Keep copies of invoices and receipts.
 - Avoid cash payments where possible.
 - Be cautious of requests to transfer money to personal accounts.
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What a Genuine Career Advisory Company Should Do

A reputable company should:

- Explain exactly what services it provides.
 - Be honest about what it can and cannot achieve.
 - Never guarantee a job offer.
 - Keep your information confidential.
 - Communicate professionally.
 - Provide realistic advice based on your qualifications and experience.
 - Be transparent about pricing and timelines.
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Scam Prevention Checklist

Question	Yes/No
Have I verified the company is registered?	☐
Have I read independent reviews?	☐
Do I understand exactly what I am paying for?	☐
Have I received a written agreement or invoice?	☐
Am I paying for professional advice rather than a guaranteed job?	☐
Has anyone asked for unnecessary personal or banking information?	☐
Have I checked the company's contact details?	☐
Does the offer sound realistic?	☐

Key Safety Tips

- Be sceptical of offers that sound too good to be true.
 - Never believe claims of guaranteed employment or guaranteed visas.
 - Verify companies before sharing documents or making payments.
 - Read contracts and invoices carefully.
 - Keep copies of all communications and payment records.
 - Take your time, legitimate companies will not pressure you into making immediate decisions.
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Trust DESIwork

- We never guarantee job offers or visa approvals.
- We provide transparent pricing before any payment is requested.
- We protect your personal information and privacy.
- We offer honest, evidence-based career advice.
- We tailor CVs and LinkedIn profiles to improve your chances of being shortlisted.
- We provide you with Hiring Manager contact details for each role.
- We help you identify suitable opportunities, but hiring decisions are always made by employers.

The transparency and credibility of our services distinguish Desiwork as a professional career advisory business. We look forward to helping you advance your career by securing a great new role in the GCC region.