There has been an increase in the number of phone calls to international students and scholars where the caller claims to be an authority that will take action against them unless they pay money or give personal details. Unfortunately some students have fallen for this trick, and have lost money or given their personal identity information. Some examples of these “scams” are (but not limited to):

- Scam Affecting Chinese Students Studying in the U.S. & Australia [1]
- Caller claims to be a representative of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or a U.S. immigration agency

It is highly unlikely that a representative of any government office would call you without first issuing a written notice in the mail. If you receive a scam call these are some steps you should take to protect yourself:

- Never give out any personal information, money or gift cards without first speaking to OISS or Yale Police.
- Ask for a number to call them back. Ask for their name, the agency they work for and their ID#.
- Search that phone number online. Often they are able to replicate a fake number that looks like an official number. If it appears to be an official number, contact your adviser at OISS [2] who can assist you in determining the next steps.
- Report the call with the number to the Yale Police Department (203-432-4400 ) or to OISS by emailing your OISS adviser. [2]
- There are additional suggestions on this web page. [3]

Source URL: https://oiss.yale.edu/news/be-aware-of-scams

Links:
[2] https://oiss.yale.edu/node/1286