
Fraud Prevention and the Summer Work and Travel Program: The Sponsor's Role

Office of Fraud Prevention Programs
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U.S. Department of State

CA/FPP



Overview

- Who is FPP?
- What is fraud?
- Why is fraud prevention your responsibility?
- What resources are available to you?
- What is trafficking?
- Who do you tell?



Who is FPP?

The Office of Fraud Prevention Programs is a division of the Bureau of Consular Affairs that coordinates Fraud Prevention efforts across the spectrum of consular products and services including,

- Passports and citizenship documents, domestic and overseas
- Non-immigrant visas (like J-1s)
- Immigrant Visas

We also insure integrity of consular operations and prevent internal malfeasance. *We are not law enforcement.*

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What is Fraud?

“Fraud is the misrepresentation of a fact through misleading statements or allegations or the submission of false documentation.”



What does SWT fraud look like?

- Misrepresentation of intent by visa applicant.
- Misrepresentation of qualifications or personal circumstances by applicant.
- Misrepresentation of the program by the sponsor or recruiter, or a third party.
- Impostor



Why should you get involved?

- Program reputation
- Recruit best quality applicants
- Combat human smuggling and trafficking
- Protect US national security

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Now what?

- Develop country specific knowledge
- Careful screening of recruiters and partners
- Targeted applicant pre-screening
- Listen to the line – its talking to you
- Validate, validate, validate



Country Specific Knowledge

- Where are large pockets of diaspora living in America?
- How long does the average student take to complete their university education?
- Are there regional, tribal or economic variances that could indicate potential patterns of travel?



Are they using you?

- Do you have family in the United States?
- Which year are you in university?
- How old are you?
- What does your father do?
- Have you ever applied for an American visa? What happened?
- How much money do you expect to make on this program?

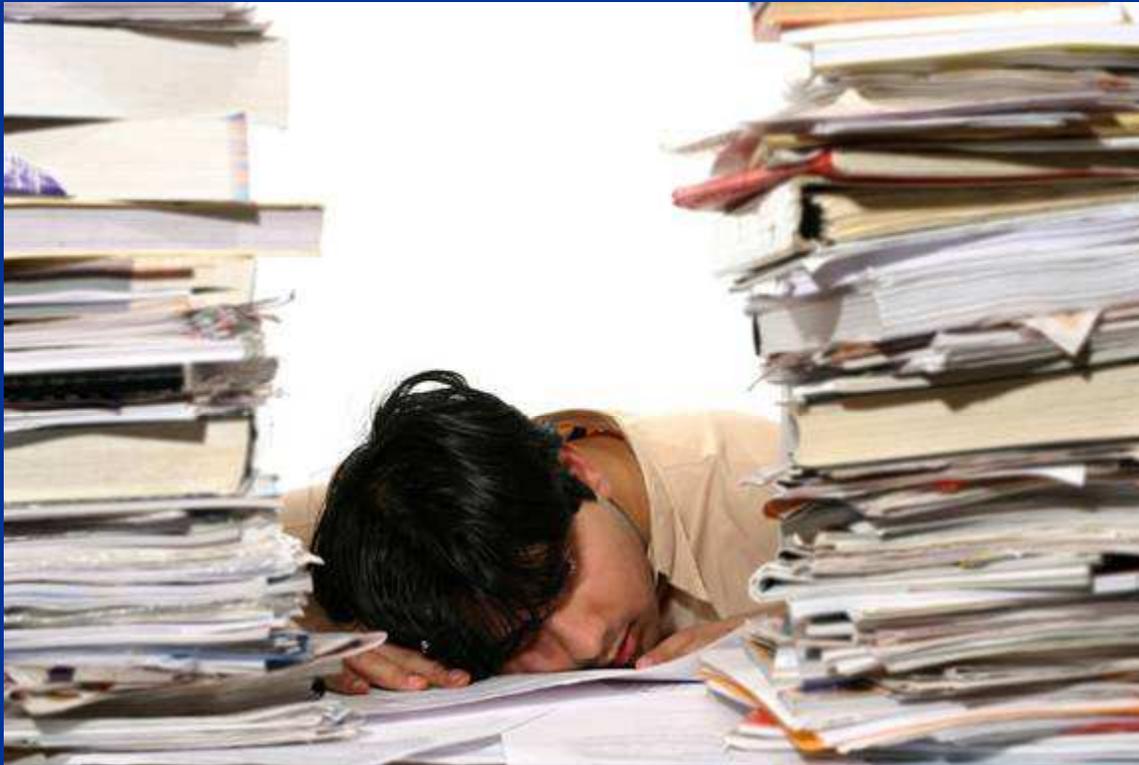


Listen to the Line

If a majority of your student's visa applications are consistently being denied, you may need to reconsider your evaluation process.



Don't get lost in the paper



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When is it trafficking?

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) defines labor trafficking as: “The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.”



What does it look like?

Here are some clues that may identify a possible trafficking victim:

- Accompanied by a controlling person or boss; not speaking on own behalf;
- Lack of control over personal schedule, money, I.D., travel documents;
- Transported to or from work; lives and works in the same place;
- Debt owed to employer/crew leader; inability to leave job;
- Bruises, depression, fear, overly submissive.



Key questions to ask:

- Are you getting paid? Anything taken out of your pay?
- Can you leave your job if you want to?
- Can you come and go as you please? Are you afraid to leave? Why?
- Have you or your family been threatened?
- What are your working and living conditions like? How are you treated?
- Do you have to ask permission to eat/sleep/go to the bathroom?
- Are there locks on your doors/windows so you cannot get out?
- Has your identification or documentation been taken from you?



If you think you have come in contact with a victim of human trafficking,

Call the
National Human Trafficking
Resource Center
at **1-888-373-7888**

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Validate, Validate, Validate

- Validation studies seek to confirm the assumptions used during applicant selection by assessing the travel patterns of visa recipients.
- A key finding of a validation study is the “overstay rate,” or the percentage of visa recipients who fail to return from the United States in a timely manner.
- The results of validation studies can help sponsors determine whether particular types or groups of applicants warrant more, or perhaps less, scrutiny in the future.
- In a best case scenario, validation studies may also confirm that a sponsor’s application process are sound.



How to Validate

1. Choose a target group
2. Select a random sample
3. Verify travel history
4. Analyze the results
5. Share the results with partners



What overstay rate is acceptable?

- What is acceptable to you?
 - Define your own standards and stick to them.
- Compare country to country, or year vs. year.
- Where are the anomalies?



Who do you tell?

- ECA, program office and Compliance Unit
- Share with consular sections in the countries you work with.
- If you believe a crime has been committed, you should report the crime to local law enforcement.
- Immigration violations should be reported to ICE at 1-866-DHS-2-ICE

