

WARNING: RENTAL SCAMS



Dear Summer Schoolers,

We have recently been informed of false accommodation offers. We ask that you please be vigilant in your pursuits.

Do NOT make advance payments or provide guarantee sums in advance of your arrival, unless you are using a trusted website such as AirBnB, Cité universitaire, the University Halls of Residence, our GSS 2019 facebook group, etc. Most of these scams are based on asking you to wire funds through Western Union or banks outside of Switzerland.

We recommend joining our Facebook group for assistance in finding accommodation. Alternatively, external participants can also request locals to help verify an accommodation offer.

IMPORTANT WHEN LOOKING FOR ACCOMMODATION:

- **Check addresses** using Google Street view so that ad photos match the property.
- Ask for a skype interview to view the property and talk to the landlord.
- **Do not pay any money** until you have "met" the landlord and are satisfied that the offer is genuine. Always insist on a receipt at the time of payment.
- **Do not send money** e.g. money transfer via Western Union, Moneygram or any other wire service which is untraceable.
- Be wary of sending a copy of your passport or other ID, as they may be used for identity scams. Only do so if you have a good degree of confidence in the identity of your prospective landlord (i.e. have seen them through skype, verified them through another GSS participant, or perhaps seen a copy of their ID/ passport).
- Bank account numbers and credit card numbers are not required to rent a place, so be aware if asked for these details.
- Do your research and look up the person who wants to rent you the property. Ensure their profiles are legitimate.

Thank you for your attention.

GSS Team

Geneva, April 10, 2019