



What are money mules?

Money mules is the term used when an individual moves the proceeds of crime on behalf of criminals, sometimes in exchange for payment or other benefit. Money mules enable money laundering which allows criminal gangs including drug dealers, people traffickers and fraudsters to profit from ruining people's lives.

Some people may unknowingly become involved in this type of money laundering. Young people whose bank accounts are used for criminal activity are, therefore, likely to have experienced control, coercion and abuse from others.

Why are students targeted?

The National Crime Agency (NCA) found that around £10bn of illegal money is laundered in the UK every year.

Younger account holders are usually targeted, with over half (58%) of money mules aged under 30 years old.

Of those hired to shift cash for criminals, nearly a quarter (24%) are aged between 19 and 25, with students struggling for money often looked at as being perfect candidates to go ahead with the illegal transaction.

How are students targeted?

When it comes to finding potential money mules, recruiters target students with offers of 'easy money' to work from home.

They may try to recruit you in person, or they may advertise in local papers. Most money mule recruiters work online with fake identities, using phishing emails and social media platforms to encourage others to join them.

Once recruited, the mule receives money into their account and takes their 'commission' before withdrawing the cash or sending it on to another account.

What are the consequences of becoming a money mule?

If you become a money mule, then you are committing fraud which is a serious criminal offence.

Despite the fact that you may have unknowingly become involved, there are long-term legal and financial consequences which will impact on the rest of your life, including:

- Up to 14 years in prison and a criminal record
- Closure of your bank accounts
- Existing loans or credit facilities being made payable immediately
- Difficulty applying for credit or a mortgage in the future
- Dismissal from higher education
- Possible rejection from membership by professional bodies

Don't pay the PRICE by letting criminals steal your future

Remember:

Protect – take steps to protect yourself and your friends

Risks – think about all the risks for your future

Identity – recruiters will often use a fake identity

Crime – money mules are committing a crime

Educate – learn about the dangers of becoming a money mule

Learn more about protecting yourself from money mules at

www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/students

#studentsagainstscams

