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Craigslist ad claims to be from incoming Harvard student offering to pay someone \$40k a year to attend class, graduate for them

Posted by Matt Rocheleau December 20, 2013 12:23 PM

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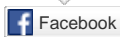
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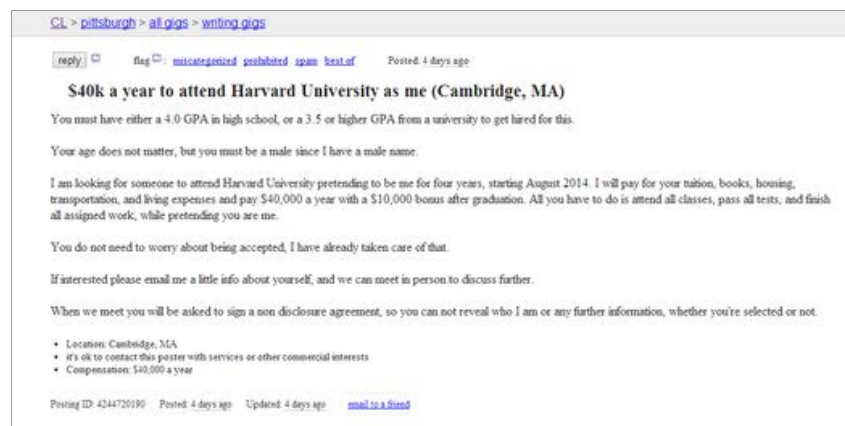
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(Craigslist.org)

A screenshot of the ad before it was flagged for removal.

By Matt Rocheleau, Boston.com Staff

An advertisement that appeared briefly on the classifieds website Craigslist claimed to be posted by an incoming Harvard University student offering to pay \$40,000 a year to have someone pretend to be the student for four years.

Whoever posted the ad wrote that they had already been accepted to start in the fall of 2014 at Harvard, which sent acceptance notices to 992 early action applicants for the class of 2018 a few days ago.

The ad poster said that they would, of course, also pay for tuition, books, housing, transportation and other living expenses. And, a \$10,000 bonus would be given if the student imposter graduated successfully.

Those interested in the job needed to be male, because the ad poster said they were male, and anyone hired would also need to have either a 4.0 grade point average in high school or a 3.5 GPA from a university, the ad said.

The Craigslist post generated some media attention Thursday evening and was flagged for removal from the website by Friday morning.

The ad may have been fake.

But, if it was real, it represents the second time this week that a student at the elite Ivy League school in Cambridge has gone to [extreme and illegal measures](#) to try to get around doing their coursework.

This all comes just several days after it was [revealed](#) that good grades at Harvard aren't quite as rare as one might expect. The most common grade at the university is an A.

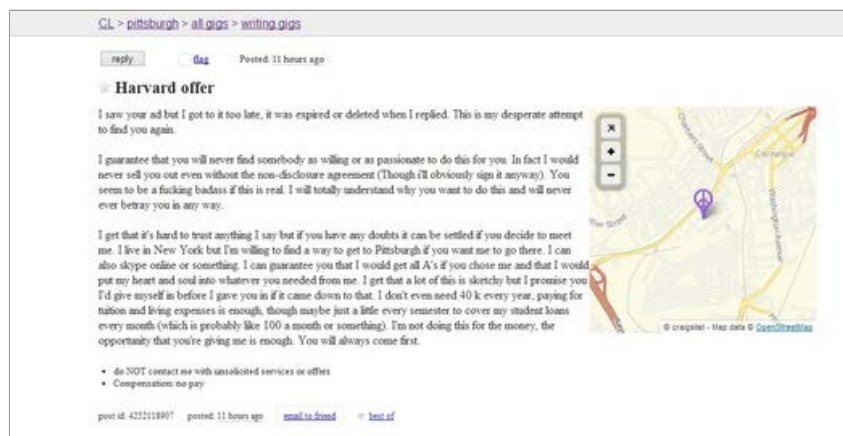
Update: Later on Friday, [another ad appeared](#) on Craigslist from someone who offered to take the job as a Harvard imposter.

"I saw your ad but I got to it too late, it was expired or deleted when I replied," the purported job applicant wrote. "This is my desperate attempt to find you again."

"I guarantee that you will never find somebody as willing or as passionate to do this for you. ... I will totally understand why you want to do this and will never ever betray you in any way," the ad continued.

"I can guarantee you that I would get all A's if you chose me and that I would put my heart and soul into whatever you needed from me, the ad added. "I don't even need 40 k every year, paying for tuition and living expenses is enough, though maybe just a little every semester to cover my student loans every month (which is probably like 100 a month or something). I'm not doing this for the money, the opportunity that you're giving me is enough. You will always come first."

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Looking for more coverage of area colleges and universities? Go to our [Your Campus pages](#).



(Craigslist.org)

A screenshot of an ad from someone saying they would like to be considered for the student imposter position.

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