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University game – cheaters edition

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LUND UNIVERSITY

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Follow, bend or break the rules to get more research funding to become a high-impact professor

Make this wildly totally normal University game a favorite go-to game for game nights and other fun get-togethers. Lean into those iconic (yet unspoken) University moments in which rules are bent, faculty money is borrowed (or stolen), and funny business is welcomed. The outlandish suggestions at the department board, registered letters from mean colleagues, and formal and unwritten rules encourage the playing professors to express their inner cheater to own it all while they bring in funding, underpay foreign students to fulfill their own dreams about high-impact publications and fame, and plan for their next move. Fake a dice roll, steal some funding from the faculty, and even skip out paying stipends to your students. Complete a cheat to get a reward; but fail a cheat and pay the consequences! No small money in this edition – only million-dollar bills – and a pretend handcuff unit may leave a Professor "chained" to the Faculty board to receive a reprimand from the dean.

Includes department gameboard, 6 professor characters, a faculty board with plastic handcuffs, 15 cheat cards with normal scenarios at the university, 16 department agendas, 16 chance cards for possible funding, 16 registered awkward letters, 16 research programs with "for-free" stipend graduate students, 2 dice, one big stack of governmental money from tax payers, account trays for the professors, and a game guide.

- Follow, bend, or break the rules to win in this edition of the University game
- Professors can try to get away with as many cheats as possible
- Cheat cards tell professors which cheats to attempt, but they may also come up with their own cheats
- Plastic handcuff unit "chains" cheating professors to the faculty board to receive a reprimand from the dean

Does this narrative sound familiar? Well, it is because only a few words have been swapped from the description in the Cheaters edition of the popular family game Monopoly® (<https://monopoly.hasbro.com>). Perhaps playing this Monopoly® game makes you better prepared for the real University game? However, there is another edition of Monopoly®! The original one, where rules are being followed and cheating is not allowed. You can employ all your graduate students and give them a decent salary and social security (they might be even more motivated to do better research). In department meetings, you can think about the work conditions for your colleagues and not just about your own well-being. You could also think twice about how you spend tax money. Being a university lecturer or professor comes with a lot of freedom at work, but also a lot of responsibilities. You should not only offer high-quality education, conduct outstanding research and carry out public outreach. You should also contribute to an excellent and safe work environment. However, when resources are scarce and greed is flourishing, it is tempting to use the dodgiest master suppression techniques. Older professors suppressing younger colleagues. Men suppressing women. Professors with lots of power (i.e. professors having large research grants or being in decision-making positions) setting the tone in the academic settings and creating unwritten rules and agendas to benefit their own egos. Personally, I prefer the original Monopoly® game, and after playing both editions in my house, both my children agree with me.