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# THE GAME OF LIFE

University is a bluffer's paradise: interest-free overdrafts, optional workload, endless holidays, elastic deadlines, cheap travel and discount drinks. Even French civil servants don't have it this good.

As such, it is in among the gleaming spires, red brick and poured concrete of university towns that you will encounter the best and brightest of bluffers. It's tough competition. But if you can make it here, you'll make it anywhere (maximum points if you can slip that last sentence past a film studies student, especially one from York).

Although it's a struggle to get kicked out of university (you're only let out early on very bad behaviour), it is relatively easy to wander out of a lecture and never return. Even *Harry Potter* actress Emma Watson (aka renowned swot Hermione Granger) is said to have abandoned her undergraduate degree at the USA's Brown University. Admittedly, this was not so much a case of giving up, as of not being allowed to grow up. It was rumoured that Watson left after her fellow students

refused to stop heckling, 'Five points to Gryffindor!' whenever she answered a question. At least this is proof that higher education produces more intelligent bullying, which is probably why Oxbridge produces so many prime ministers.

If you do make it to graduation there is no guarantee that you'll have done so in true student style. It's all too easy to fritter away these years struggling to write essays, successfully spinning debt into credit or unsuccessfully spinning your washing. And contrary to popular belief, this is not how you should be spending 'the best years of your life', as disenchanted former students tend to call them.

Instead, you should be feathering your nest with outrageous anecdotes, meeting people who you refuse to recognise as your social doppelgänger and neglecting to wash your sheets.

Luckily for you, this reassuringly short guide promises to let you in on the secret of MIMO ('minimum input, maximum output'; maximum points if you can slip that past a computing student as if it were a genuine computing term). It will conduct you safely through the main danger zones encountered in discussions about university life, and equip you with a vocabulary and evasive technique that will minimise the risk of being rumbled as a bluffer; it might even allow you to be accepted as a worldly student of rare knowledge and experience. But it will do more; it will give you the tools to impress legions of marvelling listeners with your wisdom and insight – without anyone discovering that, until you read it, you probably didn't know the