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Real life example: Sweet Revenge

See the attached PowerPoint presentation to see the complete example.

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## About this document

This document is a real life example illustrating importance of the values of academic integrity in professional life. It was created as a part of *Toolkit for cross-sector cooperation in terms of academic integrity* within Erasmus+ project.

It is a ready-to-use case study accompanied with didactic notes and discussion questions and/or other tasks for the audience. Find more case studies in [ENAI database of educational materials](http://www.academicintegrity.eu/wp/all-materials/?key-words%5b%5d=real-life-example).

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# Real life example: Sweet Revenge

# Basic information

* **Target audience**: law students
* **Summary**: consequences of academic dishonesty (contract cheating) in professional life
* **Objective**: think through the later consequences of cheating and consider the credibility of a cheater in business
* **Length**: 30 minutes

# Learning outcome/Message of the story

Apply professional work techniques consistently and observe the standards of good scientific practice.

Seek assistance if you need it.

Take action if you recognize unprofessional, unethical or criminal ways of working. Use, for example, procedures provided and also take into account ethical standards.

# Material

The attached presentation to be projected to the audience

Last page of this document – the text of the story, as handouts for the audience

# Teaching methods

Discussion over the presented case study.

# Didactic/teachers notes

# This case was created in Czech Republic, where it is possible to retrospectively revoke degrees for serious academic integrity breaches such a contract cheating in final thesis.

# It is recommended to check your legal framework and alternatively adjust the story (or keep it in Czech Republic).

#  The story

The story is on the following separate page that can be used as hand-outs.

Real life example: Sweet Revenge

Michelle and Ann were two best friends. After high school they studied law together, they lived together in a student apartment, shared all activities and knew everything about each other.

Michelle wasn’t a hard worker in her studies, she used a cheat sheet or some non-permitted support in many of her exams.

Ann was studying hard and sometimes she was jealous that Michelle had better results without the effort.

By the end of their studies, they weren’t the best friends anymore, but they still lived together.

Michelle had more free time, so she already had a part-time job in an attorney’s office.

She was struggling to start her master thesis reasoning that she did not have much time because of her job.

And hoping to complete it with minimal effort.

One day she decided to have the thesis written…

Michelle boosted herself for having the thesis ghost written: she paid for it with the money she earned through her hard work in the office, so it was well deserved!

At the end, both Michelle and Ann both defended their theses and graduated from the law school.

One year after graduation, Michelle and Ann met at the reunion of their law school class. Ann came also with her boyfriend John, who appeared to be really attracted to Michelle.

Soon after the reunion, John left Ann and started dating Michelle.

It was the last straw for Ann. Michelle cheated through her studies, had her thesis written, thanks to her work experience during her studies, had better job, and now she had stolen Ann’s love!

Ann had few photos of Michelle’s monitor showing her thesis was ghost-written.

Ann took photos of the evidence and sent them to the University and also to the office where Michelle was currently working.

Ann knew it would take some time before the University withdrew the degree from Michelle, but the reaction from her employer might be faster.

Revenge is sweet…