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University of Queensland student charged over hacking scandal

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The student allegedly hacked into the University of Queensland's computer systems ... but was caught on CCTV.

Source: News Limited

A FINAL-year law student is facing a raft of criminal charges after allegedly hacking into the University of Queensland's computer systems and upgrading his marks.

The student was only months from completing his degree at the university's prestigious TC Beirne School

of Law when he was detected bumping up grades to high distinctions, police allege.

His plot to improve his job prospects involved a lock-picking device, staff ID card and special computer equipment to beat the university's security arrangements, *The Courier-Mail* has been told.

The case comes as a record number of law students graduate from Australian universities, driving fierce competition and leaving almost one in four without full-time jobs.

UQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor Joanne Wright last night warned students that cheating was "an extremely serious matter" that could destroy their future career hopes.

"The University of Queensland has comprehensive processes and policies to detect and deal with cheats," Professor Wright said.

"If a student is found to have cheated then the impact on their future career is likely to be devastating.

"In fact, it could be far more damaging than failing a subject or course."

The student is understood to have been passing his subjects but looked unlikely to secure a top job so allegedly hatched a plan to change his marks.

He is believed to have obtained a lock-picking device online and had a staff ID card he claimed he had found rather than stolen.

University security staff are understood to have set up hidden cameras after hacking attempts were detected — allegedly catching him in the act on a return visit to the office area.

The student has been charged with six counts of using a restricted computer without consent, two of fraudulently altering a record, two of forgery and one count each of entering a premises with intent, wilful damage, stealing, impersonation and possession of tainted property.

He is due to appear in Brisbane Magistrates Court next month.

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