

Rent Strike Endgame! Player Pack

Rules

- The aim of the game is to organise a successful rent strike at a UK university and generally spread other disruption to the marketisation of higher education.
- The game is played over **three turns** lasting **10-15 minutes each**.
- Groups should be around **8-10 people**. They represent a new 'Cut the Rent' campaign at their university. Each group plays in a different, disconnected university from the others.
- All groups take their turns at the same time. Groups cannot collaborate with each other.
- During a turn, players may select **any two resources** from the list overleaf and **use them to help them complete two tasks**. Both resources can be applied to both tasks.
 - A task is anything that could be considered a single project, for example organising a demonstration, running a series of workshops on eviction defence, producing a website with videos and articles supporting the aims of a strike.
 - The MCs may ask players to elaborate on the specifics of a task the players have set for a resource if they feel it necessary to understand how it will work. Tasks should be detailed - "Holding a demonstration with the environmental society" is a task, but where is it held, what are the demands, what kinds of tactics are used?
- Once players have described their tasks the MC will decide how difficult each task would be to complete and assign an appropriate dice roll modifier, ranging from **-2 (very difficult/unlikely to succeed) to +2 (very easy/likely to succeed)**.
- Players then **roll two sixsided dice for each task they are attempting to complete**. If the combined roll after the dice roll modifier has been taken into account is 0-6, the task fails (two negative consequences). On a 7-9 it succeeds but there have been some unforeseen consequences (one positive consequence, one negative consequence). On a result of 10+ the task was an unqualified success (two positive consequences).
- At the end of the third turn the game ends, and players will discover what has happened to their university after a year of interventions.

Resources

Use two of these per turn!

- **Labour society:** Enthusiastic and supportive of your campaign and almost entirely pro-Corbyn, but inexperienced in organising direct action and grassroots campaigns outside #Labourdoorstep. They have contacts with the local Labour MP and other Labour Party contacts/CLPs.
- **Sympathetic PhD student:** Has been around the university for 5 years with good local knowledge of the campus and university management. Also has free printing.
- **People and Planet / Environmental society:** A weird mixture of cursed liberal environmentalists and more militant activists who have experienced in organising direct action through movements like Extinction Rebellion.
- **Trade unions on campus:** These include the local UCU branch (academics) and Unison branch (cleaners). They both have a good union density and the UCU branch went on strike last year over pensions.
- **Security staff union:** These are largely BAME migrant workers who have recently become organised through the more militant union IWGB and held demonstrations on campus in the past year.
- **Students' Union space:** Includes meeting rooms and a good-sized gig/club venue which can easily be booked by students.
- **Local renters' union branch:** Recently started. Primarily based on a local council estate, they are inexperienced but very motivated, and also keen to work with local students.
- **Student media:** Has a big reach on social media and on campus who are keen to report on local campus campaigns.
- **NUS VPs:** Two newly elected VPs are elected from a left slate in the prior elections. They are both very busy but also excited about your campaign and have lots of useful contacts and a small budget.
- **Student anti-racist action group:** Caused major disruption on campus the year before after a two month long occupation of a university management building in protest at a racist attack on campus and wider institutional racism, which won major concessions. Seeking to build on the energy of the previous year's occupation.

The Scenario

Turn 1 - Beginning of Term 1

The game environment is a university in the United Kingdom. The university is based in a major city, such as Leeds, Manchester or Sheffield, however it has a central campus and a relatively decent campus culture - people read the student newspaper, and the SU elections gather a significant amount of attention every year, for example. The sabbatical officers at the SU are generally apolitical careerists and unsympathetic to direct action and standing up to university management, but one sabb has some friends in the activist circles at the university and is sympathetic to left-wing activism.

Tuition fees have been cut by new Prime Minister Boris Johnson in a flagrant attempt to win kudos with younger voters as rumours circulate about an upcoming general election, but on the ground this has the effect of cutting university funding even further. As a result, the university has sold off two of its halls to a private student accommodation company in order to raise cash. Over the summer, the halls have been given minor cosmetic uplifts while average rents have been hiked from £120/week to £160/week. Other university-owned halls, from cheaper to more expensive, have also had their rents increased by above inflation rates, 5%.

In response to this, inspired by multiple rent strikes that happened the previous year in Bristol and UCL, you, a group of second- and third-year students in the university, have decided to launch a 'Cut the Rent' campaign and try to organise rent strikes in the university halls. You are aiming to rent strike from second term onwards but know this will be difficult and will try to strike from term 3 onwards.

Find out how the rest of the year pans out as the game unfolds...