# Man jailed after forged law degrees secure multiple UK jobs and fake identities



A man from Gloucester has been handed a 20-month suspended prison sentence after he was found guilty of using forged law degree certificates to secure employment. Aditya Rai, 43, not only obtained positions at two law firms in Gloucestershire but also worked as an in-house legal assistant at a construction company in Bristol. The extent of his deception included securing a UK driving licence, a passport, and opening two bank accounts using a false identity.

During the proceedings at Gloucester Crown Court, the presiding judge characterised Rai as “a dishonest person”. The economic crime team at Gloucestershire Police noted that his fraudulent activities required substantial law enforcement resources to uncover. They highlighted that Rai’s fraud extended beyond private companies, impacting government agencies and universities alike.

Rai faced charges of three counts of fraud by false representation, alongside possessing identity documents with intent to deceive and using a counterfeit instrument. He pleaded guilty earlier in the year and admitted to an additional forgery charge connected to a false Irish driving licence uncovered by North Wales Police. Over the course of his fraudulent employment, Rai is believed to have earned around £10,000.

His defence argued that the motivation behind his crimes stemmed from the financial pressures he faced during the Covid-19 lockdowns when legitimate avenues for income were severely limited. This context was echoed in his wife’s testimony, which outlined the adverse effects his actions had on their family's well-being. The judge, however, underscored the impact of Rai’s selfishness, remarking on the additional burdens imposed on his family due to his actions.

The case of Rai is set against a backdrop of rising fraudulent activities linked to educational qualifications. Recent incidents in India have seen police dismantling rackets manufacturing fake degrees, aimed primarily at students aspiring to study or migrate to Canada. Raids conducted in Rajkot resulted in the seizure of numerous counterfeit certificates, further illustrating the global challenge posed by those willing to exploit educational pathways for fraudulent gain.

A broader examination reveals that the proliferation of such scams is not confined to individual cases. In the UK, a BBC investigation uncovered a significant market for fake degrees, with companies like Axact reportedly selling over 215,000 counterfeit qualifications internationally in 2015 alone. This illicit trade generated $51 million, raising alarms about the integrity of the educational and employment systems. The General Medical Council has cautioned that, while the mere possession of a counterfeit diploma isn’t against the law, using it to secure employment constitutes fraud by misrepresentation, which could result in severe legal repercussions.

The ramifications for businesses and professional sectors are profound. Employers are increasingly encouraged to conduct thorough background checks to protect themselves from the risks associated with hiring individuals who misrepresent their qualifications. Cases previous to Rai’s, such as that of Andrew Maxted, a serial fraudster jailed for nearly six years after embezzling funds from his employer using deceit, serve as a testament to the serious challenges posed by fraudulent behaviour in the workplace.

Rai’s legal journey culminated in a sentence that mandates not only community service—200 hours of unpaid work—but also casts a shadow over the integrity of legal professions reliant on trust and accountability. The outcome underscores the necessity for vigilance and transparency within hiring practices, and the ongoing fight against a tide of fraud that exploits the reputations of esteemed institutions and hardworking families alike.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1-5: Source [[1]](https://www.aol.com/news/man-used-fake-degrees-jobs-151033605.html)
2. Paragraph 6: Source [[3]](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/rajkot/fake-degrees-marksheets-scams-busted-in-rajkot/articleshow/88244241.cms)
3. Paragraph 7: Source [[4]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-42579634)
4. Paragraph 8: Source [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c725x7r3lpro)
5. Paragraph 9: Source [[5]](https://www.sloughobserver.co.uk/news/20218613.former-banker-jailed-1-2m-cancer-scam/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.aol.com/news/man-used-fake-degrees-jobs-151033605.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c725x7r3lpro> - A serial fraudster in Gloucestershire, Andrew Maxted, was jailed for nearly six years after stealing nearly £600,000 from his employer. Maxted lied about a previous conviction to secure his job and used his position to divert funds into his own account, funding an extravagant lifestyle. The company's directors were unaware of his past conviction until 2012, leading to the company's collapse in 2017. Maxted pleaded guilty to fraud by abuse of position valued at £596,497.29.
3. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/rajkot/fake-degrees-marksheets-scams-busted-in-rajkot/articleshow/88244241.cms> - In Rajkot, India, two rackets producing and selling fake educational degree certificates and marksheets were busted, leading to the arrest of three individuals, including a woman. The counterfeit certificates were primarily intended for students aspiring to study or immigrate to Canada. The police seized over a dozen bogus MBA certificates during the raid, and further investigations are expected to result in more arrests.
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-42579634> - A BBC investigation revealed a large-scale trade in fake degrees, with companies like Axact selling over 215,000 fake qualifications globally in 2015, generating $51 million. The General Medical Council stated that while possessing a fake diploma isn't illegal, using one to apply for employment constitutes fraud by misrepresentation, potentially leading to a 10-year prison sentence. Employers are urged to verify applicants' qualifications to prevent such fraud.
5. <https://www.sloughobserver.co.uk/news/20218613.former-banker-jailed-1-2m-cancer-scam/> - Rajesh Ghedia, a former banker from Maidenhead, Berkshire, was jailed for nearly seven years after faking terminal cancer to claim over £1.2 million in insurance money. Between October 2020 and May 2021, Ghedia produced fake medical documents and letters from a consultant oncologist to support his fraudulent claims. Additionally, he defrauded victims of £600,000 by falsely claiming to be a senior banker and offering non-existent financial products.
6. <https://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/education/6624019.stm> - A BBC investigation uncovered that criminal gangs obtained millions of pounds in student loans by enrolling 'ghost students' in universities. The University admissions body, Ucas, recorded a significant increase in suspected fraud cases in 2006. One fraudster enrolled himself in five different degree courses at the same university using 17 fake identities, collecting £65,595 in student loans. This highlighted significant flaws in the student loans system.
7. <https://heddblog.wordpress.com/tag/fake-certificate/page/2/> - The Higher Education Degree Datacheck (HEDD) blog discusses various cases of individuals using fake certificates to secure positions in the UK. Notable cases include Monika Juneja, who received a 14-month suspended sentence and 200 hours of community service for forging degree certificates to become a local government lawyer, and Josef Hoffman, who was jailed for four years after posing as a doctor with a fake Cambridge degree and defrauding patients.