

St. Petersburg's European University Tops Rankings Amid Government Pressure

January 31, 2017



The European University in St. Petersburg [The European University / VK](#)

The European University in St. Petersburg has come out on top of several university league tables just weeks after having its license revoked by Russian authorities.

[Russia's Education Ministry ranked the university](#) first place in research and financial activity in its annual report on the country's higher education institutions.

The rankings, which have been carried out since 2012, are based on more than 70 different criteria.

The European University in St. Petersburg was named the country's top institute in terms of scientific research, with calculations based on factors such as the number of research papers published, the number of teachers with advanced degrees, and the number of citations made to university publications.

The school also came first in terms of revenue generated per researcher, and number of grants received per employee.

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The result is a boost for the school after the state education watchdog Rosobrnadzor revoked the university's educational license in December 2016.

The order came after a St. Petersburg district court ruled that the school, a liberal-leaning, private post-graduate college for the social sciences and humanities, had violated several legal regulations.

The university has also been fined 200,000 rubles (\$3,327) for carrying out "unauthorized alterations" to one of its academic buildings, St. Petersburg's Kushelyov-Bezborodko mansion.

The 19th century building, known in the city as the Small Marble Palace, was owned by Yekaterina Dolgorukova, wife of Tsar Alexander II, and is protected under St. Petersburg law.

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City authorities have since moved to evict the university, despite plans for the school to spend up to 2.4 billion rubles (\$40 million) renovating it.

The exact eviction date is still undecided pending a court hearing on March 15, [the university said in a statement on their website](#).

The St. Petersburg Committee for Property Relations said in a letter that they accepted that an immediate eviction of the University could disrupt the "ongoing learning process."

The university is next set to appear in court on Feb. 8 to appeal against the loss of its educational licence.

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