

Moscow University Granted License to Use Psychoactive Plants for Research

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Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has signed a decree authorizing Moscow State University (MSU) to cultivate drug-containing plants, as well as to use narcotic and psychotropic substances for scientific and educational purposes.

Russia has a notoriously tough stance against drug legalization for recreational purposes. In June, Moscow [criticized](#) Canada's decision to legalize marijuana, calling the move a "breach" of its "international legal obligations," adding that Canada had signed a number of conventions which obligate the country to restrict the use of drugs exclusively to medicinal and scientific purposes.

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The decree signed by Medvedev and [published](#) on the government's legal portal on Monday will allow MSU to use narcotic and psychotropic substances for scientific and educational

purposes.

The measure amends a previous government decree from 2011 that ruled that the cultivation, import and export of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances could only be carried out by licensed state-owned enterprises.

Meanwhile, a government commission [approved](#) a separate bill on Monday to allow the cultivation of drug-containing plants for medical purposes.

According to a statement accompanying the bill, the measure will allow the domestic pharmaceutical industry to produce opioid-based components used in pain relief medication. The commission argued that the international market for the components is dominated by companies based in countries that have enacted sanctions against Russia and says that the measure is necessary to "ensure national security."

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