



## CLAT INFORMATION BROCHURE FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26

### NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY (NLSIU), BENGALURU

#### About the University

The National Law School of India University was established in 1986 to pioneer legal education reform and anchor the transformation of the Indian legal system through research and policy interventions. NLSIU is dedicated to the creation of conditions necessary for the realisation of core constitutional values committed to freedom, equality and social justice.

The University rests on a unique collaboration between legal academics, the Bar, the Bench and the State Government of Karnataka. This strong coalition has helped the University remain the undoubted leader in the field of legal education in India for the last three decades.

NLSIU has secured a No. 1 ranking on every significant ranking study published. This includes the NIRF rankings of the Education Ministry which has ranked NLSIU as the top law school in the country for seven consecutive years now. These rankings also reflect the University's overall push for excellence across several parameters which cover varied aspects of its functioning.

Read more about our recent 2024 rankings [here](#).

#### NLSIU Campus

NLSIU began modestly at the Central College Campus of Bangalore University and in 1991, shifted to Nagarbhavi. The sprawling 23-acre campus comprises academic blocks with upgraded classrooms, a state-of-the-art library, a health centre, canteens, clean & well maintained residence halls for men and women, and faculty/staff quarters. Sports facilities include a well-equipped gymnasium, and

facilities for football, basketball, and tennis, among other spaces for academic and community-based activities.

**Campus Infrastructure** - In 2022, the University began implementing a comprehensive [Revised Master Plan](#) - a bold yet responsible plan for the future development of the NLSIU campus. As part of this plan, the University has been redeveloping common and public spaces on campus to ensure all students have access to safe communal spaces that enhance well-being. Several infrastructural upgrades have been made over the past year as part of the first phase of the campus redevelopment - the library precinct which includes a renovated state-of-the-art library and an amphitheatre, residence halls, and the New Academic Block.

**The Library Precinct** - Since 2005, the [Shri Narayan Rao Melgiri Memorial National Law Library](#) has been a central node of the NLS campus. Spread over a 30,000 sq.ft. built-up area, the library houses a collection of over 70,000 books and journals.

In AY 2022-23, we completely redeveloped the library to respond to our community's needs for a space that could be used for teaching and self-study, as well as larger academic engagements. The library, which previously had a seating capacity of 250, can now seat 600 persons across its three floors and the terrace.

Our new library is reimagined to be the hub of intellectual life on campus, with emphasis on collaboration and collective learning. It accommodates the growing student, research and faculty community and is organised into zones adapted to various uses. Modernisation of the library has resulted in improved accessibility, increased use of technology/devices, and revamped display and storage facilities. This massive project was possible because of the support of the Infosys Foundation and the Government of Karnataka.

The library precinct was further redeveloped with an open-air amphitheatre, courtyards, an entry garden, connecting pathways, and a new cafeteria. The amphitheatre sits to the right side of the library and is a multipurpose event space that can accommodate nearly 500 people.

## Academic and Campus Life:

### Restructuring of Academic Programmes

- **BA LLB (Hons) Programme** - In Academic Year 2025-26, the student intake for the BA LLB (Hons) programme will be 310 seats. The programme includes an advanced legal writing programme with a dissertation component, offered as an elective option, for final year BA LLB (Hons) students. The University is restructuring the curriculum of the programme to further strengthen interdisciplinarity with a choice of Major and Minor concentrations.
- **LLM Programme** - In Academic Year 2025-26, the student intake for the LLM Programme will be 120 seats. This programme has been restructured to strengthen legal writing and research methodology, and immerse students in the foundations of legal theory. The University has recently restructured the LLM curriculum to provide students with the choice of pursuing concentrations in select domains of the law.
- **Elective Courses** - NLSIU offers Elective Courses which allow students to undergo an immersive deep dive into their chosen subject. These courses involve 40 hours of teaching in each trimester and are taught by senior law practitioners, advocates, judges, and prominent members of academia.

The University offers more than 100 elective courses every year. More than 50% of these elective courses are taught by external/ visiting faculty, that include several eminent professionals and academics from within and outside India. Our elective courses cover the widest range of enquiry in law, public policy and the social sciences - we offer one of the highest number of elective course options of any Indian law university.

- **Clinical and Experiential Learning** - Clinical electives play a significant role in exposing students to the practice of law and policy. These courses are traditionally taught by practitioners who lend real life experience inside and outside the classroom, including exposure to live cases or clients, thereby bridging the gap between academics and practice.

The University has reinvented its experiential learning curriculum to include

several new Clinical Courses (e.g. Defending Capital Punishment Cases, Criminal Procedure - Investigations, Data and Criminal Justice). All senior students are expected to take up at least one clinical course during the programme, and we aim to increase the intensity of Clinical Education in the years ahead. Additionally, the University offers Externships in collaboration with leading professional organisations including India's top law firms, advocates, and the non-profit sector. Students have the option of signing up for externships in lieu of elective courses.

### **Expert Faculty Pool**

The University has a team of highly experienced faculty members which include Rhodes, Commonwealth, and Chevening scholars. Many of our faculty are from some of the best schools including Oxford University, Stanford University, University of Cambridge, Harvard Law School, Columbia University, Yale Law School, New York University, SOAS, University of South Carolina, Jawaharlal Nehru University, NALSAR Hyderabad, NLU Delhi, XLRI Jamshedpur, NUS, University of Pennsylvania, Max Planck Institutes, among others.

To accommodate our expanded student intake, and further strengthen our teaching and research initiatives in law, public policy, and the social sciences, the University recruited 11 faculty members in 2022, 22 faculty members in 2023, and 24 faculty members in 2024. We also have had more than 100 external faculty and practitioners delivering elective courses over the last two Academic Years. This has not only strengthened our exceptionally talented faculty pool, but has also resulted in providing an unparalleled learning environment for legal education in the country.

To know more about the NLS faculty, visit our [People Directory](#) on the NLS website.

### **Digital Infrastructure Upgrades**

The University is undergoing a thorough digital transformation which permeates several aspects of its functioning. The University offers high quality wireless connectivity throughout the campus which has been upgraded recently. The University has also introduced an ERP system, digitisation and automation of academic and hostel administration, and a learning platform to improve accessibility and pedagogy across the University.

**Digitization of books** - The digitization of library books has also been underway since the last few years, and students with disabilities will have access to digitised copies of the library's collection. We have upgraded the library platform, and have intensified the digitisation of books with over 30,000 books digitised so far.

**Learning Management System** - The University has built and deployed an online learning management system that ensures a structured syllabi for every course and the easy availability of reading materials. This learning platform is integrated with video conferencing and the administrative platform to make online learning a seamless experience.

## **Research**

NLSIU has actively developed and organised its research infrastructure to consolidate and augment research output in terms of publications, projects, and contribution to policy frameworks. The University has identified five focus areas for its research and policy development initiatives: Labour and Work; Climate Justice; State Capacity and Reform; Access to Justice & Legal System Reform; and Law, Technology and Society.

Continuing our research efforts, NLSIU has entered into a number of collaborations both at the local and international level to produce innovative and relevant outcomes through research. Research activities during AY 2023-24 expanded with at least 20 active projects across law and social sciences. Our newer partnerships include those with:

- IIT-Bombay and Dept. of Consumer Affairs in developing tools for grievance redressal in relation to consumer cases;
- The JSW Group which will support a new research centre on campus to anchor academic and policy research and curricular interventions that explore the effects of new technologies on the future of the legal system, the legal profession and legal education.
- The Government of Karnataka in delivering social justice and gender training;
- The Government of India in delivering legal awareness programmes.
- Universities across the world on strengthening rights protection and constitutional transformation; among others.

These projects exemplify our commitment to deepening research on systems reform and good governance and our emphasis on interdisciplinary research that enrich both academic learning and policy engagements. The University has also revived and refreshed leadership and staffing for Research Centres and Research Chairs, and has recruited a dedicated team of researchers including Academic Fellows who will further intensify and expand our research productivity.

**Journals:** NLSIU publishes several academic [journals](#) that contribute to a wide range of legal and interdisciplinary scholarship. These journals carry articles by leading scholars and practitioners, and have been cited by the Supreme Court on several occasions.

For more details of research initiatives at NLSIU, please visit the [Research page](#) on the NLS website.

### **Extra-curricular Activities**

Apart from the rigorous academic programmes, the University offers an environment that encourages students to organise and engage in several co-curricular and extra-curricular activities on campus.

Mooting remains a core activity at NLS. In 1999, the University became the first Indian team to win the prestigious Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition and has gone on to secure more such wins. Teams from NLSIU have won several moot court competitions at the national and international level including the Manfred Lachs Space Law International Moot and the Oxford Price Moot.

### **University Colleges**

With the aim to revitalise the NLS student experience and University life, the University has recently established four [Colleges](#): Andromeda, Aquila, Orion and Phoenix. The four colleges at NLSIU are permanent, cross-sectional societies that provide the cohesiveness and camaraderie of a small college in a larger university environment. Residential as well as non-residential students will be allotted to a College on a random basis aligned to the principle of diversity. The College shall form the stable social unit at the University for events, dinners and other activities that bring together students from various programmes and batches to foster the spirit of

belonging.

For more student-related information and activities, visit our [Students page](#) on the NLS website.

## **Student Welfare**

The University has worked with the Student Bar Association (SBA) to carefully review the mental health and emotional well-being needs of the student community. We care about every member of our University community and seek to support holistic development of our students during their time at NLSIU. The following services are available to the student community:

1. Counselling Services
2. Clinical Therapy and App-based Services
3. Psychiatric Referrals
4. Consultation Hours with the Student Welfare Officers

For more information, visit our [Mental Health page](#) on the NLS website.

## **ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES:**

### **I. FIVE-YEAR INTEGRATED B.A., LL.B. (HONS.) PROGRAMME:**

The five-year integrated Undergraduate B.A., LL.B (Hons) degree programme at NLSIU offers students training in a range of legal and non-legal subjects. The University pioneered this five-year programme in India with an intention to provide a strong foundation upon which students could choose to pursue professional options or further academic opportunities.

### **Programme Structure**

The programme is taught across three trimesters each academic year. In each trimester, a student completes at least 4 courses and over 5 years, completes an intense programme of at least 60 courses before they graduate. Once students complete their foundation courses of the programme, they are permitted to choose from a range of taught, research based, and clinical elective courses from the fourth year onwards.

The programme is highly inter-disciplinary where students are equipped to develop an understanding of law along with knowledge of humanities and social sciences. From the Academic Year 2025-26 onwards, students will receive a set of foundational courses in various social science disciplines, and will then choose a major in one discipline amongst economics, history, political science, or sociology. The pedagogy is Socratic where students engage actively in debates along with learning materials in the classroom.

All students write a mandatory paper in almost every course in the programme and present these materials to ensure that they develop research, writing and oral presentation skills. Students also have to complete mandatory internships during the programme.

## Eligibility

1. A Pass in 10+2 or an equivalent examination with a minimum of:
  - (i) Forty five per cent (45%) of marks or its equivalent grade in case of candidates belonging to General/OBC/PWD/ EWS categories; and
  - (ii) Forty per cent (40%) of marks or equivalent in case of candidates belonging to SC/ST categories.
2. Candidates who may be appearing for their qualifying examination in March/ April 2025 are also eligible to appear for the CLAT 2025 examination. Their admission shall remain provisional until the submission of the certificate and the marksheet, indicating that the candidate has met the stipulated eligibility criteria, on or before September 30, 2025.
3. There is no upper age limit for the UG Programme.
4. NLSIU reintroduced [Admissions for International Students](#) from the Academic Year 2024-25 by way of supernumerary seats in the UG Programme. Foreign Nationals who have completed at least 10 years of education outside India shall be eligible for such supernumerary seats. A separate examination called the 'NLSAT-International' is conducted for these supernumerary seats. The NLSAT-International is conducted for all on-campus degree programmes at NLSIU.



The University reserves the right to cancel the admission of any candidate for the breach of these Rules.

For more details, visit the [BA LLB \(Hons\) programme page](#) on the NLS website.

## Intake and Reservation

The total intake capacity shall be **310 (Three Hundred and Ten)** seats for AY 2025-26 with the following breakup:

Category	Percentage of seats	Number of seats
<b>Scheduled Caste</b>	15.0%	45
<b>Scheduled Tribe</b>	7.5%	23
<b>Other Backward Classes NCL</b>	27%	81
<b>Economically Weaker Section</b>	10%	30
<b>General</b>	N/A	121
<b>Total</b>		300
<b>Seats for Karnataka Students in addition to Clause (c) below</b>	N/A	10
<b>Revised Total</b>		310

- a) Fifteen (15) seats comprising 5% of the total intake shall be reserved horizontally for Persons with Disabilities (PWD).
- b) Ninety (90) seats comprising 30% of the total intake shall be reserved horizontally for Women.
- c) Seventy-five (75) seats comprising 25% of the total intake shall be reserved horizontally (compartmentalised) for Karnataka Students\*.
- d) The ten (10) seats for Karnataka Students shall be allotted as per the entrance examination merit list.
- e) All required certificates and supporting documents shall have to be submitted to the University at the time of counselling.

**\* Karnataka Students Category:**

(i) Candidates who have studied for not less than 10 years in a recognized educational institution in Karnataka shall be eligible to be considered as 'Karnataka Students.' Study certificates issued by duly recognised and affiliated educational institutions, which attest that the candidate has completed at least 10 years of schooling in Karnataka, shall have to be produced at the time of counselling.

(ii) Candidates who have not completed ten years of study in Karnataka shall be eligible to apply under the Karnataka Students category if they fall under any of the below categories:

1. Children of defence personnel/ ex-servicemen, who at the time of joining service, have declared their hometown to be in the State of Karnataka, and who have served or are serving outside Karnataka, corresponding to the candidate's years of study outside Karnataka.
2. Children of employees of the Karnataka State Government who have served or are serving outside Karnataka corresponding to the candidate's years of study outside Karnataka.
3. Children of serving or retired employees belonging to the Karnataka cadre of the All India Services (IAS/IFS/IPS), who have served or are serving outside Karnataka corresponding to the candidate's years of study outside Karnataka.
4. Children of working or retired employees in the Central Armed Police Force service, who upon joining service declared their hometown to be in the State of Karnataka, and who have served or are serving outside Karnataka, corresponding to the candidate's years of study outside Karnataka.

**Illustration:** If the candidate has studied in Karnataka for three (3) years, they must prove that their parent/s were serving outside Karnataka for at least seven (7) years corresponding to their own period of study outside Karnataka.

If the candidate has not studied in Karnataka continuously for at least one (1) year, they must prove that their parent/s were serving outside Karnataka for at least ten (10) years corresponding to their own period of study outside Karnataka.

(iii) Eligible candidates must keep their Study Certificates issued by their

School/s and other relevant documents ready to be submitted at the time of counselling.

## **Fee Structure - B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) Programme | AY 2025-26**

Total fee (including refundable deposits):

**a) General Category: Rs. 4,55,000**

**b) SC/ST Category: Rs. 4,50,000**

(Fees are subject to necessary approvals and further revision)

### **NOTE:**

(i) Please note the fees/ charges applicable to both B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) and LL.M. Programmes may be revised by the University, and duly notified.

(ii) The University may not be able to provide accommodation to all admitted candidates. Further information about available facilities will be provided to selected candidates during the admission process.

## **Financial Assistance**

The University follows the principle that no student once admitted should have to discontinue his/her studies on grounds of financial hardship. NLSIU aims to address financial concerns of students by way of a comprehensive scholarship programme as well as the easy availability of long-term and short-term loans for financial assistance.

**Scholarships:** Every year, scholarships are given to the students out of the endowments and from University General funds. The University also supports students in availing a number of external scholarship options. These include private scholarships as well as those offered under the National Scholarship Portal and the State Government Scholarship Portal. The NLSIU alumni community has also extended support to both bursaries and endowments with generous contributions from different batches.

For more details, visit the University's [Financial Aid page](#) on the NLS website.

## **II. ONE-YEAR LL.M. (MASTER OF LAWS) PROGRAMME**

NLSIU offers a one-year LL.M. degree programme. Similar to the B.A., LL.B. (Hons) programme, the LL.M. programme is organised around three trimesters every academic year.

### **Programme Structure**

The University has recently re-designed the structure of the LL.M. programme to provide students greater flexibility in choosing courses. With the help of a cutting-edge curriculum and innovative pedagogical approaches, the programme is meticulously designed to equip students with skills and knowledge needed to navigate the intricate landscape of law.

The LL.M. programme provides a unique blend of core and elective courses, allowing students to deepen their expertise in their preferred areas of interest and thrive in diverse fields such as academia, research, legal practice, policy making and judicial services. Besides the core courses, students are required to choose from a wide array of electives offered at the University. Students will also have to write a mandatory dissertation in the third trimester.

In Academic Year 2024-25, NLSIU introduced four concentrations, in addition to the general stream. This distinctive concentration model enables LL.M. students to delve deeper into specific domains of law, enhancing their knowledge and expertise in those specific domains. The four concentrations that were offered for AY 2024-25 are:

- Public Law
- Criminal Law
- Commercial Laws
- Law and Technology

The maximum intake in a concentration shall be 30 and the minimum number of students required for offering any concentration shall be 15 students.

To fulfil the requirements of a concentration, students must complete: 3 LL.M. Core Compulsory courses; 1 Concentration Core course; 3 Concentration Electives; 4 General Electives; and Dissertation (in the area of Concentration).

## Eligibility

1. An LL.B. Degree or an equivalent examination with a minimum of:
  - (i) fifty per cent (50%) of marks or its equivalent grade in case of candidates belonging to General/OBC/PWD/ EWS categories;
  - (ii) forty five per cent (45%) of marks or its equivalent grade in case of candidates belonging to SC/ST categories.
2. Candidates who may be appearing for their qualifying examination in March/ April 2025 are also eligible to appear for the CLAT 2025 examination. Their admission shall remain provisional until the submission of the certificate and the marksheet, indicating that the candidate has met the stipulated eligibility criteria, on or before September 30, 2025.
3. There is no upper age limit for the PG programme in CLAT.
4. NLSIU reintroduced [Admissions for International Students](#) from the Academic Year 2024-25 by way of supernumerary seats in the PG Programme. Foreign Nationals who have completed at least 10 years of education outside India shall be eligible for such supernumerary seats. A separate examination called the **NLSAT-International** is conducted for these supernumerary seats. The NLSAT-International is conducted for all on-campus degree programmes at NLSIU.

The University reserves the right to cancel the admission of any candidate for the breach of these Rules.

For more information, visit the [LLM programme page on the NLS website](#).

## Intake and Reservation

The total intake capacity shall be 120 (One Hundred and Twenty) seats for AY 2025-26 with the following breakup:

Category	Percentage of seats	Number of seats
Scheduled Caste	15 %	18
Scheduled Tribe	7.5%	9
Other Backward Classes NCL	27%	33
Economically Weaker Section	10%	12
General Category	N/A	48
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>120</b>

- a) Six (6) Seats comprising 5% of the total intake shall be reserved horizontally for Persons with Disabilities (PWD).
- b) Thirty-Six (36) Seats comprising 30% of the total intake shall be reserved horizontally for Women.
- c) Thirty (30) Seats comprising 25% of the total intake shall be reserved horizontally (compartmentalised) for Karnataka Students.

### **Fee Structure - LL.M. Programme | AY 2025-26**

Total fee (including refundable deposits):

a) **General Category:** Rs. 4,55,000

b) **SC/ST Category:** Rs. 4,50,000

(Fees are subject to necessary approvals and further revision)

**NOTE:**

(i) Details pertaining to the definition of the 'Karnataka Students Category' mentioned under the BA LLB (Hons) programme is applicable to the LLM programme as well.

(ii) Details pertaining to the Financial Assistance mentioned under the BA LLB (Hons) programme is applicable to LLM students as well.

(iii) Please note the fees/ charges applicable to both B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) and LL.M. Programmes may be revised by the University, and duly notified.

(iv) The University may not be able to provide accommodation to all admitted candidates. Further information about available facilities will be provided to selected candidates during the admission process.

**Contact Us:**

For further details, please visit our website [www.nls.ac.in](http://www.nls.ac.in) or contact:

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