



CLAT INFORMATION BROCHURE FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

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 Ministry of Education 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 2025 rankings [here](#).

NLSIU Campus

In 1988, NLSIU began modestly at the Central College Campus of Bangalore University and in 1991, shifted to its present location at 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 (FIFA standards), 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 overall 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 built-up area of around 30,000 sq.ft., 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 State 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:

- **BA LLB (Hons) Programme** - The five-year integrated undergraduate B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) degree programme offers students training in a range of legal and non-legal subjects. NLSIU pioneered this five-year programme in India with the intention to provide a strong foundation upon which students can choose to pursue a career in law, other professional options or further academic opportunities. The first cohort of this programme was admitted in 1988.

In 2025, the University restructured the curriculum of the programme to further strengthen interdisciplinarity with a choice of Major for students, build functional competencies, deepen experiential learning, and introduce new courses to prepare its graduates for the challenges of lawyering in the twenty-first century.

In Academic Year 2026-27, the student intake for the BA LLB (Hons) programme will be 310 seats.

- **LLM Programme** - NLSIU offers a one-year LL.M. Degree Programme. With the help of a cutting-edge curriculum and innovative pedagogical approaches, it is meticulously designed to equip students with skills and knowledge needed to navigate the intricate landscape of law and thrive in diverse fields such as academia, research, legal practice, policymaking and judicial services. This programme has been restructured to strengthen legal writing and research methodology, and immerse students in the foundations of legal theory. The University has also restructured the LLM curriculum to provide students with the choice of pursuing concentrations in select domains of the law - Commercial Law, Law and Technology and Criminal Law.
- **Elective Courses** - NLSIU offers more than 100 Elective Courses every year, 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 the academia.

More than 50% of these elective courses are taught by external/visiting faculty, and includes 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. Elective courses are open to students of all on-campus programmes offered at NLSIU.

- **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 institutions 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 has been steadily recruiting faculty members since 2022. We currently have over 100 core faculty members at the University. We also have had more than 100 visiting 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.

Digitisation of books - The digitisation 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 (LMS) - 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. The University has more than 20 active projects across law and social sciences. Our recent partnerships include those with:

- IIT-Bombay and Department 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 State 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 9 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 of India on several occasions.

For more details on 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 pedagogy is Socratic where students engage actively in debates along with learning materials in the classroom. The programme is highly inter-disciplinary where students are equipped to develop an understanding of law along with knowledge of humanities and social sciences.

BA LLB (Hons) curriculum comprises five key components:

1. Common Core Courses
2. Major in Humanities
3. Foundational Law Courses
4. Electives
5. Internship

Common Core

All students will begin their academic journey with a Common Core curriculum consisting of six courses, to be completed over the three trimesters of the first year. These courses will draw on foundational concepts and methods from disciplines such as law, politics, philosophy, history, sociology, anthropology and literature. The primary objective of the Common Core is to cultivate in students a disposition of curiosity, critical inquiry, appreciation, and wonder—enabling them to engage meaningfully with both their immediate contexts and the wider world.

The Common Core is designed to equip students—regardless of their prior high school specialisation—with a broad-based foundation of knowledge, skills, and values essential for their intellectual and professional development. It encourages interdisciplinary thinking,

creative problem-solving, and research capabilities that transcend rigid disciplinary boundaries. This component of the curriculum is intended to be completed during the first year, laying the groundwork for subsequent academic work in majors.

Importantly, the six Common Core courses will be offered jointly to students enrolled in the B.A. (Hons.) and B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) programmes. This shared academic experience is intended to foster intellectual exchange and collaboration between students pursuing training in law and those specialising in the humanities and social sciences.

Majors

After completion of the common core courses, every student admitted into the Programme will be required to choose a major in one discipline amongst four options - (i) **Economics**, (ii) **History**, (iii) **Political Science**, or (iv) **Sociology & Anthropology**.

A major will entail completion of a minimum of 10 courses per major [6 core courses and 16 credits worth of electives (usually 4 elective courses)]. Electives must be from subjects related to the chosen major area, from a list of elective courses identified by the Academic Review Committee and the Programme Chairs.

Students will be asked to provide their preference towards the end of the third trimester of the First Year. Students will be selected on the basis of their performance in all the common core courses.

Foundational Core Law Courses

The approved curriculum provides for the foundational core law courses that every student of the BA LLB (Hons) must register for, and complete for the award of their degree. The revised curriculum will continue to offer all the courses as mandated by the Bar Council of India's Legal Education Rules 2008. The curriculum also mandates a few additional subjects as core courses.

Electives

The University offers a range of electives that students can choose from in completing their credit requirements. These electives allow students the opportunity to develop an advanced understanding of their areas of interest.

Internship

Students also have to complete mandatory internships during the programme. Students are expected to carry out at least one compulsory internship every year. The types of internship change as they move through the programme.

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

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 school qualifying examination in March/April 2026 are also eligible to appear for the CLAT 2026 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, 2026.
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. Citizens of countries other than 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 details are available on the NLSIU website.

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

Intake and Reservation

The total intake capacity shall be **310 (Three Hundred and Ten)** seats for AY 2026-27 with the following breakup:

Category	Percentage of seats	Number of seats
Scheduled Caste	15%	45
Scheduled Tribe	7.5%	23
Other Backward Classes NCL	27%	81
Economically Weaker Section	10%	30
General	N/A	121
Total		300
Seats for Karnataka Students in addition to Clause (c) below	N/A	10
Revised Total		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 7 years in a recognised 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 7 years of schooling in Karnataka, shall have to be produced at the time of counselling.

(ii) Candidates who have not completed seven 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 four (4) 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 seven (7) 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 - BA LLB (Hons) Programme | AY 2026-27

Total fee (including refundable deposits):

a) General Category: Rs. 5,00,000/-

b) SC/ST Category: Rs. 4,95,000/-

(Fees are subject to approval by the University's Governing Bodies 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 their studies on grounds of financial hardship. NLSIU aims to address financial concerns of students by way of a comprehensive financial aid programme as well as the easy availability of long-term and short-term loans for financial assistance.

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.

Concentrations

The LLM Programme at NLSIU offers concentrations **in addition to the general stream**. This distinctive concentration model enables LLM students to delve deeper into specific domains of law, enhancing their knowledge and expertise in those specific domains. The concentrations that are currently offered include:

- 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 the following: 3 LLM 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 2026 are also eligible to appear for the CLAT 2026 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, 2026.
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. Citizens of countries other than 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 details are available on the NLSIU website.

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 2026-27 with the following breakup:

Category	Percentage of seats	Number of seats
Scheduled Caste	15%	18
Scheduled Tribe	7.5%	10
Other Backward Classes NCL	27%	32
Economically Weaker Section	10%	12
General Category	N/A	48
TOTAL		120

- 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 2026-27

Total fee (including refundable deposits):

a) **General Category:** Rs. 5,56,600/-

b) **SC/ST Category:** Rs. 5,52,000/-

(Fees are subject to approval by the University's Governing Bodies 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:

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