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## NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY

### DOCTOR OF LAWS (LL.D) DEGREE PROGRAMME REGULATIONS, 2021

In exercise of the powers conferred by and in discharge of the duties assigned under the relevant provisions of the National Law School of India Act, 1986, the Executive Council hereby introduces the following Regulations:

#### I.

- (a) *Administration:* The **Post-Graduate and Doctoral Council** (“PGDC”) constituted by the Vice-Chancellor from time to time shall oversee the administration of Doctor of Laws (LL.D) programme.
- (b) *Advertisement:* The University will on the advice of the PGDC, issue an advertisement every year inviting applications from candidates seeking admission for the LL.D Research Degree Programmes. The maximum seats available during a particular year will be determined by the PGDC.

#### II. Eligibility

Persons fulfilling all the following criteria shall be eligible to apply to the LL.D. programme:

- (a) The candidate should have obtained a Ph. D. in Law through regular mode from NLSIU or any recognized University in India or abroad.
- (b) The candidate should have completed a minimum 10 (ten) years of Teaching experience after obtaining Ph.D. in Law *or* completed a minimum of 10 years of exceptional jurisprudential achievement after obtaining Ph.D. in Law.
- (c) The candidate must have published as the sole author, or as the main author in co- published articles, a minimum of ten articles in peer reviewed/refereed journals having ISSN number or books published by reputed publishers, with ISBN number, after the completion of Ph.D.

#### III. Duration

- (a) The LL.D. programme shall be for a minimum duration of three years, including course work and a maximum of six years.
- (b) The PGDC shall permit extension of the duration of the programme beyond three years, only to candidates who have otherwise complied with requirement of submission of progress reports and making the first and second presentation.
- (c) Failure to complete the course within the maximum period of six years, will automatically result in cancellation of registration.

#### IV. Admission Procedure

- (a) *Application:* The candidate’s application shall comprise the following components:
  - (i) Completed Application Form along with the research proposal of about 10 pages to be submitted within the stipulated time.

- (ii) The research proposal should contain:
  - (1) Title
  - (2) Statement of the problem and the background information on the subject
  - (3) A set of research questions along with Hypothesis & Methodology
  - (4) A research design.
- (iii) The research proposal for inter-disciplinary research shall have components which have a bearing on legal aspects.

*(b) Presentation*

- (i) The eligible shortlisted candidates shall be required to make an oral presentation before a Panel of experts consisting of all Professors of NLSIU and external experts as recommended by the PGDC.
- (ii) The Panel of experts, after evaluating the strength of the proposal and the presentation shall submit the evaluation report of the candidates to the PGDC.
- (iii) If the presentation is not of a satisfactory quality, in deserving cases, the expert panel may recommend that the candidate be given another opportunity to make the oral presentation. Such presentation will have to be made within a period of 20 days from the initial presentation.
- (iv) If the expert panel finds the candidate unsuitable even after the second presentation, the said candidate will be considered as having failed in the selection process and the candidate may be informed accordingly.

## **V. Selection Process**

- (a) The candidate will be selected by the PGDC upon consideration of the evaluation of the written research proposal and the evaluation report submitted by the expert panel on the oral presentation.
- (b) The list of selected candidates as above shall be displayed on the NLSIU website after approval by the Vice-Chancellor.
- (c) The candidate secures admission only on payment of requisite fee as notified by the University within the stipulated period, failing which the selection will be cancelled.
- (d) A candidate who has been unsuccessful to get admission in the first attempt may apply afresh the next academic year. The same procedure, as mentioned above shall be followed.

## **VI. Supervisors**

Professors of Law employed full-time at NLSIU shall be appointed as ‘Supervisors’.

## **VII. Allocation of Supervisors**

- (a) Depending on the available specializations among the full-time faculty available at NLSIU, the PGDC shall decide the allocation of the Supervisor for a selected candidate.
- (b) PGDC on approval by Vice-Chancellor may nominate any other expert as co-supervisor.
- (c) A Research Advisory Committee shall be constituted by the PGDC consisting of Supervisor as Chairman and two other members nominated by the PGDC.

## **VIII. Progress Report Submission and Presentation**

- (a) The candidate shall be required to submit two progress reports before a draft thesis is submitted. If a particular progress report is not satisfactory the candidate may be asked to resubmit the same. The candidate shall also be required to make two oral presentations. Presentations shall ordinarily be made before a committee consisting of the Research

Advisory Committee and two experts identified by the PGDC. All progress reports shall be submitted to the Research Degree Department, which will transmit the report to the supervisor and fix a date for oral presentation.

(b) First Progress Report

- (i) The first progress report shall be submitted to the Research Degree Department in writing within six months from the date of registration. The candidate may prepare the progress report in consultation with the supervisor before doing so.
- (ii) The first oral presentation shall be scheduled within one month of the submission of the first progress report. Prior to the first presentation, the candidate shall be required to present at least one chapter of their dissertation. In the presentation, the candidate shall be expected to detail out the problem identified for research, indicate the research outline, identify and firm up research questions and hypothesis, if any, proposed methodological approach and review of literature.
- (iii) If the scholar's progress report and oral presentation are not satisfactory, a second chance may be provided to the scholar to improve their work. This presentation shall be scheduled within three months from the date of the first oral presentation. The scholar may consult his/her supervisor and take guidance before submitting the improved progress report to the Research Degree Department.
- (iv) The Research Degree Department shall transmit the reworked progress report with the Supervisor and fix a date for oral presentation.
- (v) Only a scholar who has satisfactorily completed the First Presentation will be permitted to submit the second progress report as per rule mentioned below and make the second presentation thereof.
- (vi) After the first presentation, based on the suggestions made by the experts invited to the panel, the scholar may modify the title, if needed, without changing the subject

(c) Second Progress Report

- (i) On completion of six months after the first presentation, the scholar shall submit a report of the research work to the Research Degree Department. This second progress report would explain and analyse the progress made by the scholar. The same will be sent to the supervisor and the scholar will interact with the supervisor to review progress and receive suggestions.
- (ii) The second oral presentation shall be scheduled, on the supervisor being satisfied that the candidate has made substantial progress in the research and has written and submitted to the supervisor, at least two or three chapters of their draft thesis. The supervisor shall then recommend to the PGDC that the candidate may be permitted to make their second presentation.
- (iii) The PGDC shall facilitate the second presentation before an expert panel consisting of the Research Advisory Committee and other external experts.
- (iv) The suggestions/ comments made by the experts will be furnished to the scholar by the PGDC through the supervisor.
- (v) If the scholar's progress report and oral presentation are not satisfactory, the candidate shall be required to engage in further research and make another presentation within a further period of three months from the date of the second oral presentation. The scholar may consult his/her supervisor and take guidance before submitting the improved written report to the Research Degree Department.

(d) Third and Final Presentation

- (i) On completion of the Research, the candidate may submit his/her final draft thesis to

the supervisor who will examine and recommend for submission to the Research Degree Department for scheduling the final presentation on any date, not earlier than six months from the date of the second presentation.

- (ii) Prior to recommendation for final presentation, the supervisor shall ensure that the candidate has complied with requirements under Regulation IX below. The Supervisor shall also subject the said draft to an appropriate similarity test, using appropriate anti-plagiarism software. If the extent of similarity is less than 20% and any instance/s of plagiarism in the document may be resolved by duly acknowledging the source of textual material used through appropriate footnoting, the correction will be allowed before the supervisor approves the final draft.
- (iii) If, however, the said similarity is more than 20%, or if it reflects instance/s of plagiarism and direct the candidate to revise and resubmit the draft and in case of non-compliance, the Supervisor shall decline to recommend the third and final presentation. The same shall be reported to the PGDC Council for its appropriate decision, which may include de- registration of the candidate.
- (iv) The draft thesis shall be submitted to the Research Degree Department three months prior to the date of completion of three years from the date of registration. In case of necessity, based upon the valid ground, the extension not exceeding three years may be granted for submission of draft thesis. However, the total period shall not exceed six years.
- (v) The PGDC will subject the full text of the draft through an anti-plagiarism software to a test for plagiarism and send the report to the Supervisor and the scholar concerned.
- (vi) The candidate shall submit a soft copy and four hard copies of the draft thesis to the Research Degree Department once the final draft is approved for due processing and endorsed by the supervisor. Upon clearing the plagiarism checks, the PGDC shall schedule the third and final presentation before a Panel consisting of Supervisor and three external Examiners within two months from the date of submission. The experts will be furnished with a copy of the draft thesis at least fifteen days before the date of final presentation.
- (vii) The panel consisting of the supervisor and external experts shall evaluate the final presentation of the draft thesis. Comments and suggestions made by the experts at the time of oral presentation shall be communicated by the Department to the candidate through the Supervisor.
- (viii) After incorporating the recommendations made by the external experts, the final thesis may be submitted with due certification by the Supervisor within a period of two months of receiving comments and suggestions from the external experts, in the format prescribed by the University.

## **IX. Publication**

The LL.D. Scholars must publish at least two research papers in refereed journals and make two paper presentations in Conferences/Seminars before the submission of the thesis and produce evidence for the same in the form of presentation certificates and/or reprints.

## **X. Evaluation**

- (a) The candidates shall be required to submit the thesis both in soft copy and 5 (five) hard copies after paying the requisite fee.
- (b) The thesis shall be in English and it shall be the result of candidate's own work keeping in mind the standard of literary presentation.

- (c) The thesis should not include any other work done by the candidate for any other degree successfully completed at the present University or elsewhere.
- (d) The candidate should obtain a certificate from the Supervisor and the thesis should contain the same.
- (e) The thesis submitted by the candidate will be sent to three external examiners selected by the Vice- Chancellor, from out of a panel of external examiners submitted by the PGDC.
- (f) The examiners shall send detailed evaluation reports that shall include:
  - (i) A detailed report in the proforma sent by the University;
  - (ii) A definite recommendation as to whether the thesis be accepted in the present form or with minor revision or major revision or to be rejected.
  - (iii) Whether thesis is fit for publication in its present form or needs any changes
- (g) If the reports of the Examiners are satisfactory, a public viva voce of the Research candidate shall be conducted in the manner prescribed in Regulation XI.
- (h) If two out of three examiners recommend the award of LL.D. Degree, and the candidate is certified to have defended his research in the public viva-voce, PGDC shall recommend award of degree and on approval by the Vice- Chancellor, a notification shall be issued by the Registrar and also the award of the Degree is recommended to the Academic Council.
- (i) In case any of the examiners recommend the award of the Degree subject to rectification of the deficiencies in the thesis, the candidate shall be provided through the Supervisor a copy of the suggestions/comments made by the examiners. The candidate is required to submit the revised version of the Thesis after incorporating the suggestions/comments within three months along with the prescribed fee. Only one such resubmission shall be permitted. The Supervisor shall certify that the requisite changes have been incorporated.
- (j) The entire process of evaluation of LL.D. thesis shall ordinarily be within a period of six months from the date of submission of the thesis.

## **XI. Public Viva Voce**

- (a) After receiving the positive reports from at least two external examiners and the supervisor, the Chairperson of the PGDC shall set up committee for conducting the open viva as follows:
  - (i) The Research supervisor as Chairman of the Committee
  - (ii) One of the external examiners who evaluated the Thesis
  - (iii) The Chairperson of the PGDC
- (b) The Viva-voce examination will be set up at a date and time convenient to all concerned, with the help of the Research Degree department. The Research supervisor shall be setting up the examination, either in a physical or video-conferencing mode. The travel and local hospitality of the external examiner, if he/she travels to NLSIU campus for the Viva-voce examination, will be taken care of by NLSIU.
- (c) The Viva-voce shall be held as follows:
  - (i) the candidate shall make a presentation for a maximum period of 30-35 minutes

- highlighting the key findings and suggestions.
- (ii) An open question and answer session inviting questions by any participant in the open viva.
  - (iii) Questions by the members of the committee.
  - (iv) The committee will decide if LL.D degree is to be awarded to the candidate and accordingly the Chairman of the Committee will announce the acceptance of the thesis for award of the Degree. The committee members should satisfy themselves that candidate made a comprehensive presentation of the findings, answered adequately the questions raised by the audience and members.
  - (v) The report signed by the Committee members shall be submitted to the PGDC.
  - (vi) PGDC will forward the report of the committee to the Vice-chancellor to approve for final notification by the Registrar.

## **XII. Award of Degree**

The LL.D. Degree shall be awarded, after completion of all the above process successfully, at the time of Annual Convocation following the result. However, the candidate shall be entitled to a Provisional Certificate after the results are declared.

## **XIII. Guidelines for submission of thesis**

- (a) The length of the thesis should not be less than 1,00,000 words (including footnotes, excluding Bibliography and Annexures).
- (b) The thesis is to be printed on single side paper;
- (c) The thesis should be written in English;
- (d) The font shall be 'Arial' (12 font size for the body of the text and 10 font size for tables, figure, appendices, etc).
- (e) Each chapter should begin on a new page;
- (f) A margin of at least 4 cm to the left, top and bottom side of the page. The margin of right side should be 2.5 cm;
- (g) The thesis should be free from grammatical and punctuation errors;
- (h) Certificate, Declaration, etc. – Formats duly filled in have to be enclosed.