



NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY

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Press Release on Admission of Karnataka Students at NLSIU

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The National Law School of India University, Bengaluru hereby sets out some essential background information regarding the admission of Karnataka students at the University.

1. On April 27, 2020 the Government of Karnataka enacted the National Law School of India (Amendment) Act, 2020 that amended the National Law School of India Act, 1986. The Statement of Objects and Reasons seeks to “provide for 25% of seats to Karnataka Students in National Law School of India, University Bangalore.”
2. This Amendment Act inserted a new section 4(3) which provided for **horizontal** reservation of **25%** of seats for students of Karnataka. The section defines "student of Karnataka" as a student who has studied in any one of the recognized educational institutions in the State for a period of not less than ten years preceding the qualifying examination.
3. The Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in its decision dated 29th September 2020 in *Master Balachandar Krishnan v. State of Karnataka and others* (Writ Petition Nos. 8788, 8951 and 9145 of 2020) struck down the validity of the National Law School (Amendment) Act, 2020. The Hon'ble High Court *inter alia* held that:

“(2) The State Legislature has no power or authority under the Act to direct the respondent/Law School to provide reservations for students in view of the limited role of the State under the Act. Hence, the impugned Amendment by insertion of sub-section (3) of Section 4 of the Act is declared illegal.

(3) The impugned Amendment in sub-section (3) of Section 4 of the Act is contrary to the scheme of the Act and powers vested in the authorities recognized under the Act which makes the respondent/Law School an autonomous and independent body free from State's control. Hence, the impugned Amendment which encroaches upon the power of the authorities under the Act is contrary to the Act.

[...]

(6) Recognising the fact that the respondent/ Law School is an autonomous entity, any form of reservation for students to be admitted to it shall be provided by the Executive Council of the Law School bearing in mind the fact that it is an institution of national importance.”

4. The Government of Karnataka preferred an appeal against the decision of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka by way of a Special Leave Petition filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. While the matter was heard at the interim stage, no interim order has been issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Hence, the judgement of the Hon'ble High Court is the applicable law to the matter.

5. While the litigation before the Hon'ble Supreme Court is ongoing, the University after due consultations, and with the approval of the Governing Bodies of NLSIU adopted the "NLSIU Inclusion and Expansion Plan 2021-2025" on 17th April 2021. Under the terms of this Plan, NLSIU voluntarily adopted a 25% horizontal compartmentalised reservation for Karnataka Students from the Academic Year 2021-22. Hence, NLSIU ensures that Karnataka Students are admitted to 25% of seats in every vertical category, including General/ SC/ ST/ OBC/ EWS and as a result, constitute at least 25% of the overall student body.

6. All admissions to NLSIU's B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) and LL.M. programmes are based exclusively on the scores candidates receive in the Common Law Admission Test, which is administered by the Consortium of National Law Universities (NLUs). On completion of the exam every year, the Consortium draws up a merit rank list based on examination performance. Based on this rank list, the Consortium administers admission to law programmes at 22 participating NLUs ensuring that all vertical and horizontal reservation categories are satisfied. The Consortium administers State horizontal reservations in 21 NLUs. Admission for Karnataka Students at NLSIU is implemented in an identical manner to State horizontal reservations at every other NLU. Admissions to the open, vertical, and horizontal reservation categories are carried out by the Consortium, in accordance with the norms laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

7. The number of Karnataka students admitted to study law programmes at NLSIU is as follows:

Programme	Karnataka Students Admitted	Total Students Admitted
Academic Year 2021-22		
B.A., LL.B. (Hons)	30	120
LLM	13	50

Academic Year 2022-23		
B.A., LL.B. (Hons)	44	180
LLM	20	75
LLB (Hons)	14	52
Academic Year 2023-24		
B.A., LL.B. (Hons)	60	240
LLM	25	100
LLB (Hons)	30	120

8. In Academic Year 2024-25, the number of Karnataka students admitted to law programmes at NLSIU is projected to increase to 135 with increases to overall student intake. In Academic Year 2026-27, the minimum number of Karnataka students studying law programmes at the University will increase to around 500 students.

As set out above, NLSIU has implemented the Karnataka Student reservation in letter and spirit.

Sd/-
Registrar
NLSIU