## NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY

## PH.D. DEGREE PROGRAMME REGULATIONS, 2023

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:

Ι	(a)	ADMINISTRATION  THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O
		The Doctoral Council (DC) consisting of a Chair and Vice Chair PhD programmes, shall be constituted by the Vice Chancellor ordinarily for a period of 2 years. The
		Doctoral Council shall be in charge of the administration of the PhD programmes.
	4.)	
	(b)	ADVERTISEMENT  The university will on the advice of the DC, issue an advertisement every year inviting applications from candidates seeking admission for the Ph.D. Degree in Law and Ph.D. Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies (collectively, "Research Degree Programmes"). The maximum seats available during a particular year will be determined by the DC.
	(c)	DEFINITIONS
		<ul> <li>"Masters in Law degree (LL.M.)" shall mean a master's degree programme in Law of either 1-year/ 2-semester/ 3-trimester duration or 2-year/ 4-semester/ 6-trimester duration, as completed by a candidate having any of: <ol> <li>4-year/ 8-semester bachelor's degree in Law (LL.B./LL.B. (Hons.) through regular mode from a recognized University:</li> <li>5-year/ 10-semester/ 15-trimester bachelor's degree in Law (LL.B./LL.B. (Hons.) through regular mode from a recognized University: or</li> <li>3 (or 4)-year bachelor's degree and a 3-year degree in Law (LL. B./LL.B. (Hons.) through regular mode from a recognized University.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
II		ELIGIBILITY
	1.	Ph.D. (Law)
		The following candidates shall be eligible to apply for the Ph.D. (Law):
		(a) Candidates having a 5-year/ 10-semester/ 15-trimester bachelor's degree
		, , ,
		or its equivalent grade on a point scale wherever the grading system is
		followed (70% of marks or its equivalent grade in case of SC/ST/OBC (non-
		programme in Law (LL.B./LL.B. (Hons.) through regular mode from recognized University having secured a minimum of 75% marks in aggregat or its equivalent grade on a point scale wherever the grading system

- programme in Law (LL.B./LL.B. (Hons.)) (following a 3 (or 4)- year bachelor's degree through regular mode from a recognized University having secured a minimum of 75% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on a point scale wherever the grading system is followed (70% of marks or its equivalent grade in case of SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/PWD candidates); and
- (c) Candidates having a Masters in Law degree (LL.M.) through regular mode from a recognized University having secured an aggregate of at least 55% marks or its equivalent grade (50% of marks or its equivalent grade in case of SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/PWD candidates);
- (d) Candidates having passed the Solicitors Examination conducted by the Bombay Incorporated Law Society and having a completed a bachelor's in Law (LL.B./LL.B. (Hons.)) degree from a recognized University through regular mode; or
- (e) Candidates having a Master of Business Laws (MBL) degree from the National Law School of India University with minimum CGPA (Cumulative Grade Point Average) of 4.00 and having completed a bachelor's degree from a recognized University through regular mode;

**Provided that** candidates in their final year of study in the respective degrees in (a), (b) and (c) shall be eligible to apply, subject to the candidate securing the minimum marks or equivalent grade prior to the date of commencement of the Ph.D.;

**Provided further that** on the recommendation of the DC and the Dean Academics, the Vice Chancellor may admit such number of international students seeking to join the Ph.D. (Law) programme in the University as may be determined from year to year. Such admissions will be based on an evaluation of the programmes pursued by such candidates, the research proposal submitted by the candidate and an oral presentation.

**Explanation**: Candidates having an equivalent qualification from a foreign educational institution accredited by an assessment and accreditation agency which is approved, recognized or authorized by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country to assess, accredit or assure quality and standards of the educational institution are also eligible to apply for the Ph.D. (Law).

## Ph.D. (Inter-disciplinary)

The following candidates shall be eligible to apply for the Ph.D. (Inter-disciplinary) programme:

(f) Candidates having a Master's degree in any discipline through regular mode with a minimum of 55% or equivalent grade (50% of marks or its equivalent grade in case of SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/PWD) and a 3 (or 4)-year Bachelor's degree from a recognized University through regular mode; or

2.

- (g) Candidates having passed the Company Secretaryship examination conducted by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India and been awarded Associate Membership of the Institute (ACS) and a having completed a bachelor's degree programme in Law (LL.B./LL.B. (Hons.)) from a recognized University through regular mode; or
- (h) Candidates having passed the Chartered Accountants examination conducted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and been awarded Membership of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India , and having completed a bachelor's degree programme in Law (LL.B./LL.B. (Hons.)) from a recognized University through regular mode; or

**Provided that** candidates in their final year of study in the respective degrees in (a) and (e) shall be eligible to apply, subject to the candidate securing the minimum marks or equivalent grade prior to the date of commencement of the Ph.D.

#### III DURATION

a) The candidate shall complete a minimum of three (3) years' research in their chosen subject, including the mandatory course work as provided in these Regulations.

## b) **Maximum period**:

The maximum duration of the Ph.D. programme shall be six (6) years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. programme, subject to the fulfilment of the requirements per the Regulations.

**Provided that** candidates who are Persons with Disabilities (having more than 40% disability) may be allowed a relaxation of a maximum of two (2) years; however, the total period for completion of a Ph.D. programme in such cases should not exceed eight (8) years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. programme;

**Provided further that** female Ph.D. candidates may be provided Maternity Leave/ Child Care Leave for up to 240 days in the entire duration of the Ph.D. programme; however, the total period for completion of a Ph.D. programme in such cases should not exceed six (6) years and eight (8) months from the date of admission in the Ph.D. programme.

- c) Extension shall be granted after the initial period of 3 years and only if the mandatory course work has been completed within the initial three year period. Extension shall be granted only one year at a time. Every such extension shall be granted only upon the recommendation of the Supervisor.
- d) Failure to complete the course within the maximum period set out in (b) above will automatically result in cancellation of registration.

IV		ADMISSION PROCEDURE
	1.	<b>Application</b>
		a) Candidates shall submit within the stipulated time an application for the admission test along with the research proposal of about 6-8 pages.
		<ul> <li>b) The research proposal should contain:         <ol> <li>Title</li> <li>Statement of the problem and the background information on the subject</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
		iii. A brief outline of the research design including a set of research questions and the proposed methodology
	2.	Admission Test The University shall conduct a written test along the following scheme:  a) Research Aptitude – 50 marks;  b) Essays on relevant topics pertaining to law/ other disciplines – 50 marks
		Candidates securing not less than 50% marks on the aggregate in the written test will qualify for evaluation of their Research Proposal and making an oral presentation before the Panel of Experts on the date specified by the University.
	3.	Research Proposal and Presentation
		a) The written Research Proposal of the candidate qualifying to make an oral presentation shall be submitted to the University and shall be evaluated by the Panel of Experts.
		b) Upon submission of the written Research Proposal in (a), the candidate shall make an oral presentation before a Panel of Experts on the dates specified by the University.
		c) The oral presentation shall be evaluated by a Panel of Experts.
V		SELECTION PROCESS V. SELECTION PROCESS
		a) The candidates will be selected by the Doctoral Council upon consideration of the marks obtained by the candidate in the admission test, research proposal and the oral presentation. The weightage of each score component shall be as follows:
		a. Admission test -50%;
		<ul> <li>b. Research proposal – 35%;</li> <li>c. Oral presentation – 15%</li> </ul>
		b) The list of selected candidates as above shall be displayed on the NLSIU website.
		c) The candidate can secure admission only on payment of requisite fee as

		notified by the University within the stipulated period, failing which their selection will be cancelled.  d) A candidate who has failed once may apply afresh during the next academic year, and the same procedure mentioned above shall be followed.
VI		ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SUPERVISORS AND MEMBERS OF THE RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
	1.	Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors employed as full-time regular teachers at NLSIU shall be eligible to be appointed as 'Supervisors', provided that they have obtained a Ph.D. degree from a recognized University in India or abroad and have at least 5 or 3 research publications in peer-reviewed or referred journals (in the case of Professors/Associate Professors and Assistant Professors respectively.
	2.	An eligible Professor/Associate/Assistant Professor can guide up to 8/6/4 Ph.D. candidates, respectively, at a time. (This number will include the supervision of LL.D. scholars or co-supervision of Ph.D. scholars within NLSIU or outside).
	3.	Persons employed at NLSIU or elsewhere shall be eligible to be appointed as members of the Research Advisory Committee, provided that they have obtained a Ph.D. degree from a recognized University in India or abroad.

## VII ALLOCATION OF SUPERVISORS AND CONSTITUTION **OF** RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE 1. The allocation of the Supervisor for a selected candidate shall be decided by the DC depending on the number of candidates per faculty member, the available specialization among the faculty supervisors, etc. 2. Change of Supervisors will not be ordinarily allowed during the course period. In case of any contingency including when a Supervisor leaves service or retires from service on superannuation or changes service to another institution or expresses an inability to supervise the candidate for any reason, the Vice Chancellor, upon recommendation by the DC, or at his/ her discretion and in the interest of the candidate: (a) continue the same Supervisor until the submission of the thesis; or (b) may appoint another Supervisor to supervise the work of the candidate. **3.** There shall be a Research Advisory Committee for each Ph.D. candidate consisting of the Supervisor and two members (one from within NLSIU and one external member). The external member of the Research Advisory Committee is not required to have a PhD degree. The composition of the Research Advisory Committee shall be proposed by the Supervisor and approved by the DC. The Supervisor of the candidate shall be the Convener of this Committee. This Committee shall review the research proposal and finalize the topic of research, guide the candidate to develop the study design and methodology of research, identify the course(s) that the candidate is required to complete as part of the course work, periodically review and assist in the progress of the research work of the research scholar, and evaluate the presentations made periodically by the candidate as required under these Regulations. VIII **COURSE WORK** The University will offer course work for all the candidates as detailed in **Schedule** I. This programme will focus on equipping the candidate to carry out research in an 1. effective manner as well as strengthening the domain and foundational knowledge of the candidate. There will be sessions relating to research questions, hypothesis, research methodology, literature review, and such courses as identified by the DC in consultation with the Supervisor for each candidate. 2. Course work is compulsory for all candidates. Specific timelines for completion of different components are set out in Schedule I. The first component of the taught course work must be completed during the initial trimester upon their admission. The remaining two trimesters of taught course work and other course work shall be completed within the first two academic years after admission to the programme. Candidates are required to be available at the NLSIU campus for the duration of their taught course work spread over three trimesters. **3.** At the end of the course work programme, the candidates have to obtain the minimum marks, grade or assessment rating in each component of the course work

as set out in **Schedule I** in order to be eligible to continue in the Ph.D. programme.

4. Candidates failing to secure the minimum marks, grade or assessment rating in any component of the course work may be provided an opportunity to repeat the component at the earliest opportunity. It is clarified that failure to secure the minimum marks, grade or assessment rating in the repeat attempt will lead to cancellation of registration of the Ph.D. programme. No fee refund will be provided.

#### IX PROGRESS REPORT SUBMISSION & PRESENTATION

#### 1. Progress Reports

Candidates are required to submit periodic progress reports of their research over the course of their Ph.D. programme. The first report shall be submitted within three months after successful completion of **Part A** of the course work as set out in **Schedule I.** The first report shall include details of the research plan to be presented by the candidate in the First Presentation (indicated below). Subsequent progress reports shall be submitted every six months by the candidate after it is endorsed by the Supervisor and other members of the Research Advisory Committee prior to submission to the Academic Administration Department. Failure to submit a progress report or failure to make adequate progress may result in de-registration from the programme.

#### 2. First Presentation:

- (a) The first oral presentation shall be scheduled within one month of the submission of the first progress report. The candidate is required to detail the following aspects in their first presentation: (i) the problem identified for research; (ii) indicate the research outline; (iii) identify and firm up research questions and hypothesis, if any; and (iv) the proposed methodological approach; and (v) a review of literature.
- (b) The DC shall facilitate the first presentation to be made before the Research Advisory Committee members (which must include the external member of the Research Advisory Committee). The suggestions and comments made by the members of the Committee will be furnished to the candidate by the Supervisor.
- (c) If the candidate's progress report and oral presentation are not satisfactory, the candidate may be required to engage in further research and make another presentation within a further period of three months from the date of the first oral presentation. The candidate may consult his/her Supervisor and take necessary guidance. The candidate shall submit the improved written report after it is endorsed by the Supervisor to the Academic Administration Department.

- (d) The Academic Administration Department shall transmit the reworked progress report to the members of the Research Advisory Committee and fix a date for oral presentation.
- (e) After the first presentation, based on the suggestions made by the Research Advisory Committee, the candidate may modify the title of their thesis, if needed, without changing the subject. The changed title of the thesis is required to be endorsed by the Supervisor and submitted to the DC for its approval.

#### **3.** Second Presentation:

- (a) No earlier than six months from the date of satisfactory completion of the first presentation, and upon completion of **Part B**. of the Course work set out in **Schedule I**, the candidate shall submit <u>at least two chapters</u> of their thesis to the Supervisor. The Supervisor, on being satisfied that the candidate has made substantial progress in their research, shall recommend to the DC that the candidate may be permitted to make their second presentation.
- (b) The DC shall facilitate the second presentation before the Research Advisory Committee members (which must include the external member of the Research Advisory Committee). The suggestions/ comments made by the members of the Committee will be furnished to the candidate by the Supervisor.
- (c) If the candidate's progress report and oral presentation are not satisfactory, the candidate may be required to engage in further research and re-drafting of the two chapters, and make another presentation within a further period of three months from the date of the second oral presentation. The candidate may consult the Supervisor and take necessary guidance. The candidate shall submit the improved written report after it is endorsed by the Supervisor to the Academic Administration Department.
- (d) The Academic Administration Department shall transmit the reworked progress report to the members of the Research Advisory Committee and fix a date for oral presentation

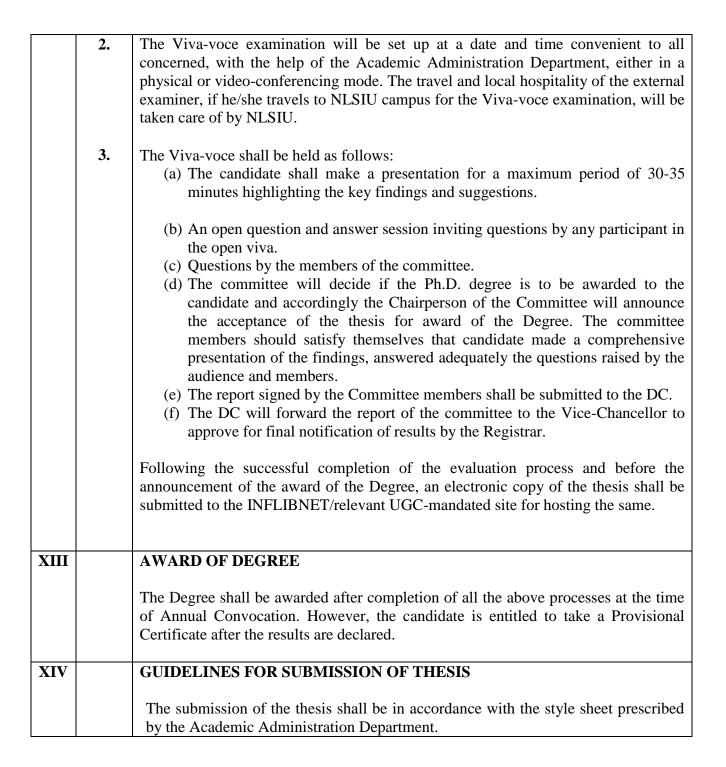
# 4. Third presentation.

(a) No earlier than six months from the date of satisfactory completion of the second presentation, the candidate shall submit the final draft of their thesis to their Supervisor, who will examine the same and may recommend its submission to the Academic Administration Department for scheduling the candidate's Third and final Presentation, along with the recommendation that

- the requirements of Clause X relating to publication and conference presentation of these Regulations have been met.
- (b) The Supervisor shall also subject the said draft to a similarity test, using appropriate anti-plagiarism software. If the extent of similarity is less than 20%, any instance/s of similarity in the document may be resolved by duly acknowledging the source of the textual material used through appropriate footnoting. The correction will be allowed before the Supervisor approves the final draft.
- (c) If, however, the said similarity is more than 20%, or if it reflects instance/s of plagiarism, the Supervisor shall 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 DC for its appropriate decision, which may include de-registration of the candidate.
- (d) The soft copy of the draft thesis shall be submitted by the candidate to the Academic Administration Department with endorsement from the Supervisor no later than three months prior to the date of completion of three years from the date of admission to the PhD programme. In case of necessity, based upon valid grounds, an extension, not exceeding one year at a time may be granted, by the DC, for submission of draft thesis. However, the total period shall not exceed the period set out in Clause III.
- (e) On receipt of the draft thesis, the DC shall schedule and facilitate the third and final presentation before the Research Advisory Committee members (which must include the external member of the Research Advisory Committee) within two months from the date of submission.
- (f) The Research Advisory Committee shall evaluate the final presentation of the draft thesis. Comments and suggestions made shall be communicated by the Academic Administration Department to the candidate through the Supervisor.
- (g) After incorporating the recommendations made by the Research Advisory Cpmmittee, the final thesis may be submitted with due certification by the Supervisor that the requisite changes have been incorporated, along with a report after subjecting this final thesis to a similarity report using appropriate anti-plagiarism software, within a period of two months from the final presentation in the format prescribed by the University, and no later than three months prior to the date of completion of three years from the date of admission or such extra periods of extension granted in sub-clause (d) above.

	5.	All three presentations made by the candidates shall be open to members of the faculty and other doctoral candidates.
X		PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCE/ SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS
**		The Ph.D. candidates must publish at least one research paper 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.
XI		EVALUATION
	1.	The candidates shall pay the requisite fees and submit the thesis both in soft copy and 5 (five) hard copies.
	2.	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.
	3.	The thesis should not include any other work done by the candidate for any other degree successfully completed at the present University or elsewhere.
	4.	The candidate should obtain a certificate from the Supervisor attesting to the originality of the thesis and that the thesis has not been submitted for the award of any other degree/ diploma to any other Higher Educational Institution.
	5.	The thesis submitted by the candidate will be sent to three external examiners selected by the Vice-Chancellor from a panel of external examiners submitted by the DC.
	6.	The examiners shall send detailed evaluation reports which shall include:
		(a) A detailed report in the proforma sent by the University;
		(b) A definite recommendation as to whether the thesis be accepted in its current form, or with a minor or major revision, or whether it be rejected;
		(c) In case any of the examiners recommend the award of the Degree subject to rectification of the <b>minor</b> 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 hard and soft copies of the Thesis after incorporating the suggestions/comments within three months. The Supervisor shall certify that the requisite changes have been incorporated. Only one such resubmission shall be permitted.

(d) Where the revisions suggested by an examiner(s) are **major**, the Supervisor will attest that the candidate has satisfactorily carried out the major revisions suggested, and the revised soft and hard copies shall be submitted to the Academic Administration Department of the University along with the prescribed fee. The Academic Administration Department will re-submit such revised thesis to the concerned examiner(s) to assess if the major revisions carried out are satisfactory, and whether the examiner(s) can make definite recommendation as to whether the thesis be accepted in its current revised form, or whether it be rejected. If two out of three examiners recommend the award of the Ph.D. Degree in its 7. current form or with minor or major revisions, and the third examiner rejects the thesis, the thesis will be sent to an alternate fourth examiner. If two out of the three examiners reject the thesis, the candidate will be de-registered from the Ph.D. programme. voce of the Research candidate shall be conducted in the manner A public viva 8. prescribed in Clause XII if, a. the reports of all the three Examiners are satisfactory, or, b. where the required minor revisions have been carried out satisfactorily in the opinion of the Supervisor, or, c. where the major revisions are assessed to have been carried out satisfactorily by the concerned examiner(s). Once the candidate is certified to have defended his research in the public viva-voce, 9. the DC shall recommend the award of the Ph.D. degree and on approval by the Vice-Chancellor, a notification shall be issued by the Registrar, and the award of the Degree will also be recommended to the Academic Council. The entire process of evaluation of Ph.D. thesis may be completed within a period of 10. six months from the date of submission of the final thesis in accordance with the process set out in Clause IX. XII **PUBLIC VIVA VOCE** 1. After receiving the positive reports from the external examiners, and the Supervisor (where minor revisions are recommended), the DC shall set up a committee for conducting the open viva as follows: (a) A member of the DC as the Chair of the Committee (b) The Research Supervisor; (c) One of the external examiners who evaluated the Thesis.



 $\label{eq:Schedule I} \textbf{A. Course Work to be completed prior to the First Presentation}$ 

Component	Marks	Credits	Minimum Grade/ Marks/ Assessment	Time for Completion
Compulsory Taught Course - Research Methodology including Research and Publication Ethics.	100	4 credits	55% marks/ B+ grade  Candidates will have to maintain the minimum attendance required for the course	To be completed in the initial trimester on admission to the programme.  To be completed prior to the First Presentation.
Compulsory Second Taught Course at NLSIU connected with the area of research.  The core/elective course shall be decided by the candidate in consultation with the Supervisor, and confirmed by the DC	100	4 credits	55% marks/ B+ grade  Candidates will have to maintain the minimum attendance required for the course	To be completed in the initial or any subsequent trimester after admission to the programme.  To be completed prior to the First Presentation.
Review of Literature	N/A	N/A	The candidate is expected to read and critically review literature pertaining to the broad domain of study and identify gaps in the literature.	To be completed prior to the First Presentation.

Component	Marks	Credits	Minimum Grade/ Marks/ Assessment	Time for Completion
			Candidates are required to attend the seminars/Ph.D. presentations/ other academic activities held at NLSIU during the trimesters when they are expected to be on campus, and familiarise themselves with ongoing research pertaining to their areas of research  The evaluation will include an oral presentation before the Supervisor and at least one member of the Research Advisory Committee, who may make suggestions to the candidate for further improvement to be incorporated in the first progress report.	
Fine tuning of the research proposal and submitting a revised proposal	N/A	N/A	The evaluation will include an oral presentation before the Supervisor and at least one member of the Research Advisory Committee, who may make suggestions to the candidate for further improvement to be incorporated in the first progress report.	To be completed prior to the First Presentation.

# **B.** Course work to be completed before the Second Presentation

Compulsory Taught course at NLSIU connected with the area of research.  The core/elective course shall be decided by the candidate in consultation with the Supervisor, and confirmed by the DC	100	4 credits each	55% marks/ B+ grade  Candidates will have to maintain the minimum attendance required for the course	To be completed prior to the Second Presentation, and in any case within 2 (two) academic years from the date of admission to the Ph.D.
Compulsory: Each candidate may select one of the following in consultation with the Supervisor:  (a) Offering an elective course (subject to	N/A	N/A	The course work in (b) or (c) shall be assessed by the Supervisor/ coordinator of the Centre, as the case may be. Candidates are required to obtain at least a 'satisfactory or above average' rating.	To be completed prior to the Second Presentation, and in any case within 2 (two) academic years from the date of admission to the Ph.D.
course being approved by the relevant University body) at NLSIU; or (b) assisting the Supervisor in a course offered by the Supervisor at NLSIU;				

or
(c) providing research
assistance in any
Research Centre of
NLSIU in a thrust area
which is relevant to the
broad field of research
of the candidate.