



NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY

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NOTIFICATION

ADMISSIONS TO THE RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMMES (2026-27)

Applications are invited for admission to the following Research Degree Programmes at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) for Academic Year 2026-27:

1. **Ph.D. (Law)**
2. **Ph.D. (Social Sciences, Humanities and Public Policy)**

ELIGIBILITY

Ph.D. (Law)

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

- a) Candidates having a 5-year/ 10-semester/ 15-trimester bachelor's degree in Law through regular mode from a recognized University having secured a minimum of 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on a point scale wherever the grading system is followed (50% of marks or its equivalent grade in case of SC/ST/OBC- NCL/Persons with Disability.)
- b) Candidates having a 3-year/ 6-semester/ 9-trimester bachelor's degree in Law (LL.B.) through regular mode from a recognized University having secured a minimum of 55 % marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on a point scale wherever the grading system is followed (50% of marks or its equivalent grade in case of SC/ST/OBC-NCL Persons with Disability); and
- c) Candidates having a Master of Laws 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-NCL)/ Persons with Disability);
- d) Candidates having passed the Solicitors Examination conducted by the Bombay Incorporated Law Society and having completed a bachelor's degree 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 a 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.

Ph.D. (Social Sciences, Humanities and Public Policy):

The Ph.D. (Social Sciences, Humanities and Public Policy) encourages students with any degree in the social sciences, humanities, and public policy field to apply. Candidates are encouraged to review the ongoing research projects and faculty research interests on the University website while preparing their proposals.

The following candidates shall be eligible to apply for the Ph.D. (Social Sciences, Humanities and Public Policy) programme:

- a) Candidates having a 4-year/ 8-semester/ 12-trimester bachelor's degree through regular mode from a recognized University having secured a minimum of 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on a point scale wherever the grading system is followed (50% of marks or its equivalent grade in case of SC/ST/OBC- NCL/Persons with Disability.)
- b) 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-NCL/Persons with Disability) and a Bachelor's degree from a recognized University through regular mode; or
- b) 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 having completed a bachelor's degree programme from a recognized University through regular mode; or
- c) 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 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.

ADMISSION PROCESS

Application

Candidates shall submit the application form duly filled up along with a research proposal of about 6-8 pages. The application form shall be available on the University website.

The research proposal must:

- i. Contain a Tentative Title,
- ii. Identify a research problem and discrete research questions,
- iii. Demonstrate background research and a thorough awareness and understanding of the relevant literature on the research problem,
- iv. Identify the methodological approach to respond adequately to these research questions.

Candidates who demonstrate a firm grasp of the foundational themes and methodological questions of the relevant discipline will be awarded higher marks.

The research proposal must be prepared by the candidate without any external assistance or assistance of AI tools.

Application Fee

An application fee of Rs. 3000/- (Rupees Three Thousand Only) shall be payable at the time of submission of the application.

Last Date for Submitting Applications:

Applications shall be accepted till 11:59 pm, IST on **March 23, 2026**.

Admission Test (NLSAT-PhD):

The National Law School Admissions Test-Ph.D. (NLSAT-Ph.D.) will be held on **April 26**,

2026, between 10.00 am to 12.30 pm in specified centres across the country. The duration of the test shall be 150 minutes.

The NLSAT-Ph.D. shall test the students on Research Aptitude and subject-matter expertise.

Candidates who secure not less than 50 marks in the written test will qualify for evaluation of their Research Proposal. They will be invited to make an oral presentation before a Panel of Experts on the date specified by the University.

TOTAL NUMBER OF SEATS

The maximum number of Ph.D. seats for the Academic Year 2026-27 are **8 (Eight)**. This includes **4 in Ph.D. (Law)** and **4 in Ph.D. (Social Sciences, Humanities and Public Policy)**. The University reserves the right not to fill all the seats where sufficient candidates do not satisfy the admission requirements.

SELECTION PROCESS

Candidates will be selected based on the marks obtained by the candidate in the NLSAT-Ph.D., the research proposal, and the oral presentation. The weightage of each score component shall be as follows:

- a) NLSAT-Ph.D. Exam: 50%
- b) Research Proposal: 25%
- c) Oral Presentation: 25%

The dates for the oral presentation shall be announced after the completion of the NLSAT-Ph.D. They are likely to be held in May 2026. Classes for the coursework component of the Ph.D. programme shall commence at the University in July 2026.

DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

Selected candidates will be offered a Doctoral Fellowship of Rs. 50,000 per month for a **maximum period of three years** from the date of their admission. The Doctoral Fellows

would be required to work for approximately ten hours every week on university roles related to their doctoral dissertation and towards their development as an academic professional. On satisfactory progress in their doctoral research and completion of institutional responsibilities, there will be an annual increase of 10% in the Fellowship Amount. Continuation of the Doctoral Fellowship at the end of each Academic Year shall be contingent on progress in doctoral research and completion of institutional responsibilities. The fellowship may be discontinued if research undertaken by the Fellow is found unsatisfactory.

Doctoral Fellowships will not be provided to candidates who remain in paid employment or other forms of paid full-time engagement with any entity or organisation after admission to the Ph.D. Programme.

Applicants already receiving UGC Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) or any such other national fellowship/sponsorship are not eligible to receive the Doctoral Fellowship.

REGULATIONS

Regulations governing the Ph.D. programme are available on the University's website (<https://www.nls.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Amended-PhD-Regulations-2023-March-2025.pdf>). Candidates should familiarize themselves with the requirements of the programme, before applying.

NS Nigam
Registrar I/C

Date: 14.11.2025

