A photograph of students in a library or computer lab. In the foreground, a man in a blue jacket is typing on a laptop. Behind him, a woman is also working on a laptop. In the background, another student is visible. The room is filled with bookshelves.

Master's Programme in Public Policy (MPP) Brochure 2026-27



**National Law School
of India University**
Bengaluru

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About NLSIU

NLSIU was the first National Law University established in India in 1986.

The premier law school was set up with a mission to pioneer legal education reforms, and to anchor the transformation of the Indian legal system through research and policy interventions. Consequently, NLSIU was one of the first institutions in the country to introduce the five-year integrated law degree at the undergraduate level with the commencement of the first batch in 1988. And for over 35 years now, the University has irrefutably remained a leader in the field of legal education in the country. This long-standing record has been possible due to the strong collaborations between legal academics, the Bar, the Bench and the State Government of Karnataka.

NLSIU has consistently strived to push for a paradigm shift in the field of legal education. To achieve this vision, NLSIU places high emphasis on the following practices:

- Creating curricular experiences on par with highest contemporary standards
- Providing socially relevant learning experiences to its students
- Enabling scholars to generate impactful reforms that are not only systematic but also sustainable.

- Enabling digitization of academic and research resources

With an array of research centres, projects underway and a team of expert faculty and administrators, NLSIU seeks to create opportunities that will open doors to a more inclusive, progressive, and innovative approach to legal education.



About the MPP Programme

The two-year Master's Programme in Public Policy (MPP) provides a comprehensive education for aspiring Public Policy professionals to constructively meet the challenges of complex public problems. Our programme comprises relevant and contemporary perspectives from the Social Sciences, Humanities, multi-methods research, experiential and immersive field projects and internships. This enables participants to understand economic-social-political contexts and examine data-based evidence on government actions. Additionally, how governments function cannot be fully understood by looking only at data-based evidence and economic-socio-political contexts. The MPP programme at NLSIU is unique as the curriculum is bolstered by law related courses that aid the participants to assess how governments think. This programme is distinctive because it is singularly poised because it provides an exemplary foundation in the Law relevant to Public Policy.



**The MPP at NLSIU
prepares policy
thinkers for
informed, inclusive
governance.**

Message from Programme Chair



It is wonderful to hear that you are keen on Public Policy as a career option and the MPP programme at NLS as your first step to meet your aspirations. This programme is distinctive because it brings together a wide variety of disciplines and faculty experiences in a manner to help you not just understand public policy problems, but to also find ways to solve them. We provide an academically rigorous understanding of concepts across disciplines including the law, a robust approach to technical methods, and a professional bearing to understand public policy challenges.

We invite all professionals and students from various backgrounds who are inspired to learn both inside and outside the classroom, and graduate as professionals who bring competence to address problems and compassion to the people afflicted by it.

Dr. Srikrishna Ayyangar

MPP Chair



Curriculum Structure

The MPP is a two-year programme organised through six trimesters interspersed with rural immersion and other experiential learning engagements. Core courses comprise content from Economics, Data Sciences, Public Administration, Constitutional foundations of the law, Reading the Law, and from the Social Sciences such as Political Science and Sociology. Other mandatory courses comprise skill-based courses such as Programme Monitoring and Evaluation, Project Management, Policy Communication, Negotiations, and Regulatory Governance

Classrooms follow innovative and integrative pedagogy encouraging participants to share their perspectives on contemporary policy issues, and the learning revolves around discussions in the light of theories and practices. Students are also assessed through conceptual recall-based assessments, feedback based written assessments such as policy briefs, memos and dissertations, group learning through projects, debates and presentations, and real-life interactions with communities and clients.



Course Structure

The total number of credits is 91. The breakup of the credit structure is provided below.

Core Courses: 71 credits

This pathway includes:

Public Policy:	16 credits
Law:	12 credits
Economics:	10 credits
Social Sciences:	08 credits
Professional Courses:	20 credits
Experiential Learning:	05 credits

Elective courses: 20 credits

This pathway includes:

Rural Experiential Learning & Investigation (Field Work)

An essential part of public policy pedagogy, this fieldwork bridges policy theory and practice. After the first trimester, MPP students spend three weeks in communities with grassroots organisations, working in small groups to gain hands-on insight into social, political, and institutional challenges shaping policy outcomes.

Internships

Internships form a core component of policy training, exposing students to real-world public policy problems. After the second, fourth, and fifth trimesters, students work with diverse client organisations, applying policy analysis tools through fieldwork and project-based engagements.

Capstone & Dissertation Projects

By the end of the first year, students undertake a capstone or dissertation project, combining fieldwork, data analysis, and policy research under close faculty mentorship. These multi-trimester projects enable students to address real policy problems or develop independent, evidence-based research grounded in practice.

Programme Map

Year	Trimester	Course
I	1	Foundations of Public Policy – 4 credits Data Sciences for Public Policy – 4 credits Reading Legal Material – 4 credits Politics and Policy – 4 credits Rural Immersive Experiential Learning – 2 credits
	2	Policy Analysis – 4 credits Economics for Public Policy 1 – 4 credits Constitutional Foundations of the State in India – 4 credits State, Law and Policy – 4 credits Internship 1 – 1 Credit
	3	Economics for Public Policy 2 – 4 credits Research Methods – 4 credits Public Institutions in India – 4 credits Elective 1 – 4 credits Internship 2 – 1 credit
II	1	Policy Design, Monitoring and Evaluation – 4 credits Policy Communication – 4 credits Organizational Studies and Project Management – 4 credits Elective 2 – 4 credits Internship 3 – 1 credit
	2	Regulatory Governance: Local to Global – 4 credits Public Finance – 2 credits Ethics, Business and Sustainability – 2 credits Elective 3 – 4 Credits Internship 4 – 1 credit
	3	Negotiation, Advocacy and Leadership for Public Policy – 2 credits Elective 4 – 4 credits Elective 5 – 4 credits Capstone Project/Dissertation – 8 credits

Programme Fees Structure

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Tuition and Facilities Fee	Housing Fees	Total fees
Rs. 3,18,200	Rs. 1,88,200	Rs. 5,06,400

Figures mentioned above are on a per annum basis

Note:

- A 'one-time admission fee' of Rs 13,900 will be collected at the time of admission.
- A refundable security deposit of Rs. 18,800 for SC/ST category students and Rs. 23,700 for other students will be collected at the time of admission. The security deposit will be refunded upon graduation or withdrawal from the programme, subject to deductions towards applicable convocation fees, certificate issuance fees, and any outstanding dues.
- The Off-Campus Housing Fee includes a meal plan covering breakfast, lunch, dinner and an evening snack.
- The fees mentioned above are provisional and subject to ratification by the University Governing

Financial Aid

The University is committed to supporting every student admitted to an academic programme to continue their studies irrespective of financial constraints. Financial Aid at the University is of three main types:

- University Aid which is administered and funded by University managed funds
- External Aid which is administered by the University but funded by third parties
- Third-Party Aid that is facilitated by the University but administered and funded by third parties



About NLSAT–MPP

NLSAT–MPP is an all–India written entrance examination conducted by NLSIU for admission to the MPP programme.

Eligibility

Applicants must hold a Bachelor’s degree in any discipline from a recognized university. A minimum of 45% aggregate marks is required for General Category applicants, and 40% for SC/ST/OBC–NCL/PWD applicants. Final–year students may apply, subject to successful completion of the degree with the required marks. Proof of qualification must be submitted by December 31, 2026.

Admission Process

The maximum intake for the MPP programme in the Academic Year 2026–27 is 60 and ONLY students qualifying as per the criteria set out below will be admitted. Admission to the programme will be through an all–India written admissions test, the NLSAT–MPP.

Admission Test (NLSAT–MPP)

Syllabus

All candidates seeking admission to the programme shall appear for the National Law School Admission Test for Masters in Public Policy (NLSAT–MPP). The NLSAT–MPP will have a single question paper comprising two parts – Parts A and B. All candidates shall be required to attempt both parts of the question paper. The examination shall be for a duration of 150 minutes.

Part A

Part A will consist of 75 Multiple–Choice Questions and shall be for a maximum of 75 marks. Each question will be of one mark. 0.25 marks shall be deducted for each wrong answer, and for each unanswered question. Part A of the NLSAT–MPP will consist of questions relating to the following:

1. Reading and Comprehension
2. General Awareness
3. Critical Reasoning

Part B

Part B shall be for a maximum of 75 marks. In Part B, candidates will be tested on the following:


(a) Policy:

1. Contemporary issues of policy relevance
2. India’s public institutions, politics, economics, and society
3. Governance challenges and opportunities in India
4. General issues of topical concern for public policy

(b) Quantitative Skills:

1. Basic Mathematics & Numerical skills
2. Data Interpretation & Graphical Analysis
3. Basic Descriptive Statistics

In cases where more than one candidate obtains the same aggregate score of Part A and Part B, the marks obtained in Part B shall



**NLSIU's MPP:
Where policy ideas
meet evidence,
institutions, and
impact.**

Pedagogy & Field Immersion

We provide an academically rigorous programme, with curriculum designed by world class faculty across disciplines. Our curriculum has been recently revised after a year-long extensive engagement with a Program Review committee comprising members from academia, the government, and the industry, along with internal faculty representation. Faculty use cases, datasets, narratives, and other such learning tools to help students not just understand concepts and methodologies but also use assessments that make students analyse and apply these learnings, to go beyond recalling or describing information.

Faculty & Practitioner Network

Our faculty within the Public Policy programme have been trained at Oxford University, National University of Singapore, the Maxwell School at Syracuse, IIM Bangalore, New York University and other prestigious institutions in India and abroad. Many faculty have authored books and frequently contribute to public debates in news agencies.

We are also part of the India Public Policy Network of academic and practitioner institutions. We also bring practitioners from the Indian Administrative Services, monitoring and evaluation organizations like ID Insight, policy experts in Tech Regulation, global project management experts, and accomplished lawyers working in key sectors to offer a portfolio of courses that students can choose from to fine tune their interests and practitioner capacities. We have frequently hosted visitors from the World Bank, McKinsey, Well Labs and other organizations for lectures and visits to our campus to interact and share learnings with our students.



Career Outcomes

A 400+ strong alumni network working across key state and central government institutions.

Alumni are working at iDeck and the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission, the Assam Police, the NITI Aayog and the Capacity Building Commission. They are also working in multilateral organizations like the World Bank, private organizations such as Grant Thornton, non-profit organizations like Janaagraha, Ipsos, the Conscious Planet, The Nudge Institute, policy research organizations such as Dvara Research, Daksh, Karya and CEGIS, consulting organizations such as PwC, Deloitte, KPMG and EY, and in evaluation organizations such as JPal. Some students have also gone on to earn doctorates from universities such as University at Wageningen, Cornell, Columbia, IISC, University of Edinburgh and so on. Our students have interned in a variety of urban based organizations and have also immersed themselves in challenging rural settings across several states to understand public policy impact upon communities.





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