



**NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, DELHI**  
**CENTRE FOR COMPARATIVE LAW**

**CALL FOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATES**

**Nature of Positions:** Research Associate (Law) – **one** post, and  
Research Associate (History) – **one** post.

The Centre for Comparative Law, National Law University, Delhi seeks to engage **two** Research Associates for an ongoing research project in collaboration with German research foundations and institutions on the Indian legal system in comparative perspective.

**About the Centre:** Founded in 2014, the Centre for Comparative Law is the first of its kind in India and aims to be the hub of critical engagement with public and private law facets of comparative law. The Centre aims to encourage scholarship in comparative law, with a view to its benefits to legal knowledge and education, and mutual relations between people in the world, with a view to develop a credible South Asian discourse in the discipline.

**About the Project:** The Centre for Comparative Law at National Law University, Delhi, has embarked upon a project under the working title, 'Exploring the Nature of the Indian Legal System', funded by German partners.

Commonly, but inappropriately, described as belonging to the common law family, the Indian legal system extends beyond the structures of state-sanctioned law received in colonial times to include both indigenous legal traditions as well as local/regional customary practices that partake of the character of law. Unfortunately, existing scholarship disregards these sources, often describing the legal system as a collection of state laws, in terms of the origin and growth of 'Hindu' law, the Islamic law as it operates in India, or as remarked earlier, a common law system.

Through doctrinal and empirical study, this project aims to explore the true nature and constituent elements of the Indian legal system. We also hope to discover the reason for the weak culture of legality – why the gap between law in the statute books and law in practice remains wide – in India, and make suitable suggestions, based on the alternatives that emerge from our study.

**Responsibilities of the Research Associate:** Research Associates will engage in doctrinal and empirical research within the broad parameters of the project proposal, with particular focus on the history of administration of justice and law enforcement in India before colonialism. On conclusion of the project, they will prepare a report on the findings of the research, and may be asked to present the same at appropriate fora. Research Associates may also aid in organizing of international and national conferences on the project. In addition to these responsibilities, their help may be sought for any other work that may be necessary to promote the aims of the Centre.

**Essential Qualifications:** Applicants for either post must demonstrate their ability to engage in interdisciplinary legal research in the project area. Those with qualifications in addition to the minimum requirement will be preferred.

- The minimum requirement for applicants to the position of **Research Associate (Law)** is **LL.M.** Preference will be given to applicants with demonstrable interest in legal history of administration of law and justice in India.
- The minimum requirement for applicants to the position of **Research Associate (History)** is **M.Phil in History** with demonstrable knowledge in history of administration of law and justice in India.
- Strong writing and communication skills.

**Desirable Qualifications:** Candidates with advanced postgraduate degrees (such as M.Phil or Phd) in Law, History, and Research are encouraged to apply.

For the position of **Research Associate (History)**, knowledge of administrative and official languages in use in medieval and modern India will be a plus.

**Duration:** The appointment is of a contractual nature, likely to be extended to one year.

**Remuneration:** Remuneration will be commensurate with qualifications and experience, but may range between INR 40,000 - 50,000.

**Application Procedure:** Applicants must send: (1) Curriculum Vitae, and (2) one 500 word writing sample on the topic *Legal Pluralism in India through the Ages* to [registrarnlud@nludelhi.ac.in](mailto:registrarnlud@nludelhi.ac.in) with a copy to [ccl@nludelhi.ac.in](mailto:ccl@nludelhi.ac.in). The subject line must clearly specify ‘**Application for RA (Law)**’ or ‘**Application for RA (History)**’ as the case may be. The last date for applications is December 15, 2017. Shortlisted candidates may be called for an interview at NLU, Delhi.