

॥न्यायस्तत्र प्रमाणं स्यात् ॥



NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY DELHI



ABHYASA INITIATIVE



NLUD Abhyāsa Initiative

Learning the Art and Praxis of Law

The existence of *Nīti* (i.e. law and institutions) does not easily translate into *Nyāya* (i.e. justice) in the real-world. This divide is essentially bridged through sustained effort i.e. *Abhyāsa* or practice in the right direction by developing skills and using tools that are helpful in legal practice. Legal pedagogy must thus be complemented with the need to develop skills that prepare students to be future ready. Towards these ends, National Law University Delhi has launched the NLUD Abhyāsa Initiative with an aim to achieve higher levels of educational consciousness by bridging the divide between academic learning and practice.

The NLUD Abhyāsa Initiative will seek to bring in experiences of practitioners and professionals in respective areas (except seminar courses) by way of assigning specific topics which delve on the practical aspects of the subject. Practical aspects such as filing/drafting applications, understanding specific rules and procedure, technical/scientific dimension which are important from an evidentiary/factual perspective in litigation, special court procedures (if any) that are adopted to resolve disputes, drafting exercises etc. which are closely aligned with the subject may be undertaken.

This initiative is conceptualised to deliver a mutually enriching experience for the students, faculty and the practitioners/professionals. The aim is to simulate the application of classroom learning in the real-world where the subtleties of practice inform how law is applied and justice is served. The objective of this policy perfectly aligns with the vision of offering 'holistic' education as per the National Education Policy 2020 in order to increase the "employability potential" of higher education programmes and the requirement to engage in 'tutorials' and 'practical training' as per the Bar Council of India - Rules of Legal Education – 2008. The importance of this initiative is underscored by the mandatory requirement that twenty percent of the course (i.e. 20% of class hours) in each subject (except seminar courses) must be dedicated to activities conducted under this initiative as per the policy guidelines below.

The following are the guidelines:

- ❖ The subject faculty member inviting the guest speakers shall be **principally responsible** to coordinate the activities undertaken this initiative as per the guidelines. The concerned faculty member shall consider a panel of experts (i.e. guest speakers) in the specific subject taught during the semester and experts invited to conduct activities under this initiative shall draw from the panel.
- ❖ This policy is applicable to all undergraduate subjects (B.A. LL.B.) taught at NLU Delhi (except seminar courses). NLUD **faculty members** shall identify components that will be covered under this initiative in their respective subject course outline. Every subject will contain a component that covers 20% of class hours. If any faculty member is seeking exemption from the application of this policy for a specific subject due to difficulties in administering it in that subject, the CDC will have such courses exempted on approval of the Vice Chancellor.

Sl. No.	Subject /Paper	Faculty Member/ Coordinator	Topic	Name of the Guest Speaker	Designation of the guest speaker & contact details	Date and Time of the activity (only as per the policy)	Semester-Batch	Any other remarks

- ❖ The activities conducted under this initiative shall be evaluated and graded within the 75 marks component (i.e. 50 marks end-term/ 25 marks mid-term) of the course curriculum based on approval of the evaluation methodology by Curriculum Development Committee (CDC) during the course outline review/presentations.
- ❖ The **Curriculum Development Committee shall** send in a request to NLUD faculty members to provide the following information through a pre-circulated google form every semester in their respective subjects **on or before** the CDC presentation:
- ❖ The **guest speaker** invited under NLUD Abhyāsa Initiative must be a legal practitioner or professional (including sitting/retired judges) having expertise in the subject/area for which an activity is conducted. Such a practitioner must have a professional standing of at least 5 years in actual full-time practice. In the context of social science subjects, such requirements may be fulfilled by way of seeking experts/professionals involved in policy-oriented activities and/or experts engaged in applied empirical research. Full-time/retired academics will not be covered under this initiative.
- ❖ The **Curriculum Development Committee (CDC)** of NLU Delhi will approve the panel of experts (i.e. list of guest speakers) in consultation with the faculty during

the CDC presentation of their respective courses. After the CDC has approved the specific topics/per subject, the final consolidated list of every subject as approved by the vice chancellor shall forward to the examination department, social media section and the finance section by the CDC. The CDC shall take into consideration avoiding any potential overlaps arising between specific topics undertaken as activities under this initiative and those undertaken in clinical courses.

- ❖ The **Examination Department** will assist the CDC in preparing the list of topics/per subject and shall keep a permanent record and formulate the timetable for activities undertaken under this initiative. The attendance section shall maintain the records of student attendance and shall be counted for the purposes of calculating attendance in that subject. A student feedback system will be maintained for all activities administered under this initiative.
- ❖ The **social media in-charge** will publicize the activities conducted in the series from time to time by formulating a social media plan for this initiative for every semester.
- ❖ The **Finance section** will be responsible for payment of honorarium and other expenses from time to time in a pre-approved format (via- google link for account details). Each practitioner may be provided for Rs 5000/- for two hour class activity or as specifically approved by the Vice Chancellor in exceptional cases. All traveling expenses (Delhi local/NCR only) shall be undertaken by the concerned speaker which will be duly reimbursed by the university. No stay shall be provided by the university. If faculty members invite guest speakers requiring flight travel/stay/boarding, such expenses shall be reimbursed only on a specific approval of the vice chancellor in exceptional cases.
- ❖ All activities conducted under this initiative will be organised in the post-lunch hours between 2:30-4:30 pm from Monday- Friday to avoid any potential conflict with seminar courses and clashes with the other university activities. At least one such activity of two hours per subject shall be organized in alternative weeks in a manner to complete the 20% course component requirement. In this regard, the specific dates available for specific subject will be notified through the timetable.
- ❖ Since block teaching for short seminar courses will be introduced from the academic year July 2023 for the month of August and February, the activities under this initiative shall only be conducted during September- November and March- May of the respective semesters for students of III- V years of the B.A. LL.B. Programme. For I and II year, activities under this initiative shall be conducted from the beginning of the semester.
- ❖ The activities undertaken under this initiative are in addition to the regular class hours as per the timetable and shall be considered as tutorial classes as per the requirement of the BCI Regulations. Attendance shall be marked for activities conducted under this initiative. If a specific activity undertaken under this initiative

is cancelled and rescheduled, it shall again be conducted only during the specific slot assigned to the subject as per the timetable.

- ❖ If all aspects of practical components in any paper cannot be covered by way of this initiative, there is an opportunity for offering short seminar courses of up to 1 or 2 credits (10 hours/one week or 20 hours / two-week courses). Faculty members can recommend and provide contact details of potential practitioners to the seminar coordinator.