



NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, DELHI CENTRE FOR COMPARATIVE LAW

CALL FOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

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

The Centre for Comparative Law, National Law University, Delhi seeks to engage **two** Research Associates for a 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.

Since its establishment, under the guidance of the Chair Professor, Prof. (Dr.) M.P. Singh, the Centre has embarked upon several ambitious projects in furtherance of its aims. In December 2016, it will release the inaugural edition of *Indian Yearbook of Comparative Law*, an annual review of emerging scholarship in the area to be published by Oxford University Press, New Delhi. The Advisory Board of the *Yearbook* is composed of distinguished Indian and foreign academics and practitioners, and its first issue will feature the works of renowned scholars, who have agreed to contribute to the *Yearbook*.

In March 2016, the Centre organized the Indo-German Conference on ‘Open Markets, Free Trade and Sustainable Development: Friends or Foes?’, in collaboration with Humboldt University Berlin, Ruhr-University Bochum and University of Hamburg. Apart from these activities, as an attempt to close the gap between legal research and

legal education, the Centre takes classes for undergraduate and postgraduate students at National Law University, Delhi, such as Comparative Law and Comparative Constitutional Law.

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. 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.

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 anthropology or history of administration of law and justice in India.
- The minimum requirement for applicants to the position of **Research Associate (Social Sciences)** is **M.A./M.Sc. in Anthropology/History/Sociology** with demonstrable specialization in legal anthropology or history of administration of law and justice in India.

Duration: The appointment is of a contractual nature, likely to be extended to two years.

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 sample of academic writing (published/unpublished) within the broad scope of the project to registrarnlud@nludelhi.ac.in with a copy to ccl@nludelhi.ac.in. The subject line must clearly specify 'Application for RA (Law)' or 'Application for RA (Social Sciences)' as the case may be. Shortlisted candidates may be called for an interview at NLU, Delhi. The last date for applications is June 30, 2016.