

Format for the Presentation of Institutional Best Practices (2022-23)

1st Best Practice

1. Title of the Practice: Fostering and Cultivating Global Competencies through International Academic Collaborations

2. Objectives of the Practice:

NLU Delhi has shown incredible growth in the last 12 years and has emerged as a research-centric university. Our work with varied stakeholders and entities not only lead to a healthy exchange of ideas and best practices but also lends a position of credibility to the University on both domestic and international platforms.

We are proactively engaged with different national and international universities, think tanks, judicial institutions, and government bodies. We are also committed to prioritizing internationalization as espoused under the National Education Policy 2020, to allow a diversity of world views on our campus.

3. The Context:

While our accomplishments in the past decade reflect commendable growth, we acknowledge the likelihood of persistent challenges as we pursue further expansion and strive to surpass existing standards. For instance, while building and sustaining international academic collaborations (both legal and interdisciplinary) is vital to achieving our vision of becoming a leading global university through excellence in research and learning, sustaining and amplifying these collaborative efforts proves challenging due to resource limitations.

Similarly, the University remains deeply invested in promoting rigorous research to enable generation of world class scholarship, particularly in areas of law and its interface with science and technology, access to justice, environmental law, climate change, internet governance and public health and law.

However, the pursuit of such ambitious endeavors faces two primary hurdles: financial constraints that limit investment in cutting-edge research, and limited infrastructure both of which hinder the university's capacity to excel in these critical domains.

4. The Practice:

International affiliations and collaborations cultivate global competency and exchange of insights, enriching adoption of global academic benchmarks. NLU Delhi's emergence as a global player is underscored by the visits of delegations from globally prominent

academic institutions, including the University of Heidelberg, UCLA, University of Durham, University of Bradford, University of Buckingham, University College Dublin, and Auckland Law School.

In pursuit of this objective, we have intensified our collaborative endeavours within the academic and professional realms. In the past year, NLU Delhi entered into MoUs with prestigious institutions including SOAS (UK), University of Melbourne (Australia), University of Waikato (New Zealand), and Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania).

To intensify our outward-looking approach and open up the University to wider participation, a range of academic initiatives have been launched by the University for the individuals beyond faculty and students at NLU Delhi, to bring in perspectives that will benefit faculty and students. In pursuance of this goal, the university instituted the International Visitor Programme to enable scholars, researchers, and practitioners from abroad to contribute to enriching the academic and research environment at NLU Delhi. The University aims to expand this Programme to enrich the academic and research ecosystem at NLU Delhi through the exchange of interactions with outstanding international scholars.

The university regularly undertakes curricular and pedagogical reforms to ensure its programmes remain current, relevant, and at par with global standards, delivering a comprehensive and modern learning experience.

Keeping in mind the multifaceted elements of NEP, University's NEP committee has taken measures to develop innovative curriculum, teaching, and pedagogy reflecting a multidisciplinary approach. Over the year ([July 2022-June 2023](#)) NLU Delhi hosted several distinguished delegates from top global Universities to internationalize and globalize legal education at NLU Delhi. Out of a total of 43 activities, the university implemented about 16 programs including workshops, capacity building sessions, academic courses, panel discussions, training, and hosted foreign delegates from different countries to exchange dialogues on possible collaboration around opportunities for both students and faculty. Some of these initiatives were to explore areas of cooperation in the future, develop research partnerships, build deeper cross-border ties, explore areas of research collaboration and sharing insights, knowledge and resources, explore cross-border student and faculty mobility programs and develop joint academic activities.

Such intense focus on Internationalisation with the aim to promote academic and research collaboration in the legal field is unique to NLUD. The efforts noted above signify a deliberate shift towards securing a more globally integrated academic environment, promoting cross-border interactions, and fostering a diverse, inclusive learning atmosphere.

5. Evidence of Success:

NLU Delhi has emerged as a recognized leader in legal education. The University has now entered a phase of consolidation and expansion. It has established offices of Deans for various departments - Academic Affairs, Research Planning and Strategic Development, Student Affairs, Alumni Relations, and International Affairs that serve as crucial hubs of leadership.

NLU Delhi continues to champion educational equity and commitment to inclusivity. The University implemented range of “**Transformative scholarship schemes**”, “**International Visitor Programme**” and received British Council’s “**Going Global Partnership Exploratory Grant**” for a short course on “**Climate Justice and Climate Change Law and Policy**” with School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, UK.

The University of Bergen, Norway and Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania regularly offer “**Erasmus Plus Scholarships**” to our university students. For academic session (2022-2023) nine students from NLUD were selected for scholarships by University of Bergen.

Study in India programme, a flagship project of the Government of India has been established in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Home Affairs. The University invited applications from SAARC, Africa, South East Asia, Central Asia, and Middle East region, and comes among one of the six public institution partners offering courses in law under the programme.

During 2022, the University progressed to the final stages of discussions with SOAS to develop a joint degree program centered on environmental justice. This groundbreaking initiative signifies a significant milestone being the first of its kind among law Universities in India.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

NLU Delhi is committed to expanding its educational programmes by increasing the number of students under its existing undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programs.

Currently, the university offers several international scholarships to students and further aspires to invite foreign scholars to engage in advanced learning and research as part of post-doctoral fellowships. However, the University has some challenges in providing quantitative projections in terms of student intake and expansion plans as the objectives of the current undertaking require NLU Delhi to provide quantitative projected ‘trends’

based on past trends. This exercise is incompatible with the objectives and vision of the University as set out under the NLU Delhi Act, 2007, namely to provide high-quality, rigorous legal education.

However, we are committed to building upon our position as one of the leading institutes of legal scholarship and research.

2nd Best Practice

1. Title of the Practice: Commitment of NLU Delhi towards advancing National Development

2. Objectives of the Practice:

NLU Delhi is cognizant of the critical role institutions play in national development, therefore, our academic and research ecosystems are consciously designed for meaningful contributions to nation-building through a robust engagement with societal concerns and challenges.

By instilling deep understanding of pressing issues and empowering them with the necessary skills, we aspire to cultivate a generation of professionals who are not only adept in their respective fields but also socially conscious and proactive in addressing the evolving needs of our society.

3. The Context:

The NLU Delhi actively forges stronger bonds with diverse segments of society, fostering mutual enrichment and positive transformation. Beyond academic offerings, the university offers a diverse spectrum of enriching opportunities, including capacity-building programmes, sensitization workshops, collaborative projects, and community outreach initiatives.

These efforts engage a diverse set of stakeholders including elected representatives, judicial officers, civil servants, police personnel, advocates, civil society and industry representatives. The notable initiative includes:

- Capacity Building Programme for Presiding Officers and Members of the Consumer Commission.
- Training programme for Gazetted Officers of CRPF.
- Capacity Building Programme for Officers of Delhi Police.

- Training Programme for the Officers of Central Economic Intelligence Bureau.
- Residential workshop for Officers of the Competition Commission of India.
- Stakeholders Consultations on IBC Reforms.
- Global Symposium on Occupational Safety and Health.
- Legal Sensitization Camps by ProBono Club NLUD.

4. The Practice:

At NLU Delhi, we take pride in our commitment to societal engagement and meaningful impact. One of the ways we exemplify this commitment is by actively contributing to the “**Drafting of bills**”, “**Policies**”, “**Rules and regulations**” that shape our legal landscape.

Our faculty members and students frequently lend their expertise to create well-informed and comprehensive documents that contribute to the betterment of our society. This hands-on engagement not only enriches our educational experience but also demonstrates our dedication to practical application.

Our commitment is exemplified through 24 pioneering specialized research centers (<https://nludelhi.ac.in/res.aspx>) within the University i.e

- Centre for Communication Governance
- Centre for Innovation, Intellectual Property and Competition
- Centre for Corporate Law and Governance
- Centre for Criminology and Victimology, and Project39A etc.

In the last ten years the University has established a body of work through the expertise of its faculty in core areas such as criminal law, legal aid, prisons and policing, corporate law and banking, technology and law, and intellectual property rights, among several other areas.

During the year (July 2022-June 2023), NLU Delhi has engaged in several initiatives through its research centres and contributed to discussions and stakeholder consultations through conferences, seminars, panel discussions, and training programs on issues ranging from Fin-tech, Data Protection, Cyber Security, Insolvency, Safeguarding and protecting consumer interest in e-commerce, preventing and addressing violation against women, etc.

NLU Delhi closely works with ministries, government departments, and agencies, and thus plays a vital role in policy-making. This year, Prof. (Dr.) G.S. Bajpai, Vice-Chancellor, NLU Delhi was invited by the Parliamentary Standing Committee to make a presentation on the subject “**Strengthening Legal Education in view of Emerging Challenges before Legal Profession**” at the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

Professor Bajpai, in his presentation covered various aspects of legal education and legal reforms, globalization of education, revising the legal curriculum, and suggested ways to further strengthen the relationship between Statutory Bodies, Universities and State Governments. He also provided consulting inputs to the Law Commission of India on the ongoing studies in the realm of Criminal Law and reforms covering subjects such as Age Determination of Juvenile, Sedition Law, Amendments in the Prevention of Corruption Act and Laws relating to Bail. A team of researchers was deployed to provide research assistance to the Commission.

5. Evidence of Success:

As part of our ongoing efforts, NLU Delhi has been involved in the creation of a range of impactful outcomes.

- The University through the Committee on Reforms in Criminal Law (CRCL) spearheaded the ongoing criminal law reforms. The Committee's recommendations inspired several progressive provisions in the Bills recently introduced in the Parliament.
- The University through its Centre for Child Rights and Juvenile Justice was invited to submit suggestions to the proposed amendments to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules 2016.
- NLU Delhi through its Centre on Law, Justice and Development assisted Government of India in the preparation of the Universal Periodic Review and Country Report under the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
- The Delhi High Court, in its recent judgment cited and relied on the conceptual frameworks developed by the Centre for Communication Governance, in its working paper on 'Tackling the Dissemination and Redistribution of Non-Consensual Intimate Images (NCII).' Each of these efforts reflects our commitment to fostering positive change and exemplifies the proactive role NLU Delhi plays in shaping the legal landscape for the greater good.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

NLU Delhi aspires to cultivate a generation of professionals who are not only adept in their respective fields but also socially conscious and proactive in addressing evolving needs of our society.

We aspire to instill in them a deep understanding of pressing issues and empowering them with necessary skills. Toward this endeavor, we introduced fellowships for which

the institution needs financial support to cater to the needs of the fellows for their work, travel, accommodation, providing access to various teaching and learning resources, etc.

For instance, Centre for Communication Governance's "DIGITAL Fellowship" where full-time fellows are placed in a lawyer's chamber to assist digital rights matters before courts and legal forums in India. Such academic efforts require innovative approaches to increase outreach and collaboration between different stakeholders. Further, students' involvement in various outreach programs related to legal aid remains largely untapped due to limited funding, which needs to be addressed.