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NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY DELHI



EKLAVYA 1.0

Research Affiliation Programme, 2025-26

Eklavya

The narrative of Eklavya, derived from the ancient Indian epic Mahabharata, serves as a timeless representation of exemplary discipleship.

Eklavya, who was initially denied the opportunity to learn the art of archery by a renowned master, took it upon himself to acquire the skill outside the confines of the traditional "Gurukul"- an esteemed institution of learning.

Eklavya's tale embodies the remarkable capacity to seek knowledge and assimilate it through unconventional means. In today's context, Eklavya symbolizes the expectation that educational institutions should embrace a more inclusive approach, allowing aspiring learners to freely pursue their quest for knowledge.

Universities are envisaged to be the places for creating and nurturing knowledge in a liberal ecosystem. However, higher education institutions typically struggle with the requirement of openness as these places are inevitably restricted to only members of these institutions.

There is a need to open up universities and make them more broadly available for the purpose of research and different forms of knowledge creation. The Research Affiliation Programme (RAP) is an effort by National Law University Delhi (NLU Delhi) to bridge the gap between legal academia and those who engage with the law in various forms outside the University.

It is meant as an invitation to those who work with the law in myriad ways to engage with legal academia and in turn, it is also an opportunity for the University to benefit from perspectives that don't usually find their way into academia. In an increasingly interconnected world, the legal academy needs to open its doors to bring in those engaged with the practice of law while continuing to infuse academic rigour into the development of such legal scholarship.

With that goal in mind, NLU Delhi is launching the Research Affiliation Programme (RAP) where the specific aim will be to develop legal scholarship of the highest standards that draws significantly on the experience and perspectives of those outside the University.

‘Research Affiliates’ – (RAs)

Through the Eklavya programme, NLU Delhi is looking to identify ‘Research Affiliates’ and work with them in developing high quality legal scholarship.

The Research Affiliation Programme, subject to other eligibility conditions, is open to all individuals who engage with the law in significant ways as part of their work. It is not essential that potential applicants have a law degree or that they ‘practice’ law as understood traditionally.

The University’s interest is to draw in a much larger pool of persons engaged with the law and we are also strongly committed to interdisciplinary perspectives as well.



Eligibility

- Any individual with at least three years of demonstrable experience working on issues that have significant interface with the law.
- At least three years should have passed after the completion of the undergraduate degree.
- If an applicant is in full time/ part-time employment with any organisation/ firm/ company/ law chambers/ government department etc, approval to be part of this fellowship will be required at the time of final selection. Self-employed individuals/ freelancers/ independent consultants etc will have to provide a declaration to that effect at the time of final selection.
- These are only conditions for the applications to be considered and there will be separate criteria for shortlisting applicants for further stages of the application process.

Structure of the Programme

- Each cohort of 'Research Affiliates' under this initiative will comprise 10 RAs chosen through an open application process administered by the University.
- Research Affiliates will not be full time/ part-time staff of the University in any capacity and it is expected that they will continue their other professional engagements alongside.
- Every Research Affiliate will work with one faculty member at NLU Delhi to develop their proposed research.
- It will be a requirement of this fellowship that each Research Affiliate submits an article to a double-blind peer reviewed journal that is to be decided with the concurrence of the assigned faculty member.
- The selection as a Research Affiliate will be valid for one year and will not be renewed unless exceptional circumstances exist for doing so.
- Research Affiliates will have complete access to University resources including electronic databases and also remote access to such electronic databases.
- All Research Affiliates will have a designated space in the TPS Chawla Library at NLU Delhi for the duration of their association with the University.
- Each cohort of Research Affiliates will have the benefit of two general academic writing workshops specifically curated for them through the year.
- In addition to the general academic writing workshops, there will be two workshops specifically designed to discuss the progress in research and writing of the papers undertaken by the Research Affiliates.
- While all workshops will be held on the NLU Delhi campus, the final workshop will be in the form of an offsite retreat.
- The certificate from NLU Delhi recognising successful completion of the assignment will be issued only once the article has been accepted by the above mentioned journal.

Application Process

- Applicants will have to complete an online application form and also upload the documents mentioned below.
- A statement of no more than 500 words demonstrating experience with issues that have a significant interface with the law and its relevance for the proposed research.
- A statement of no more than 1000 words on the proposed research and paper that the applicant intends to complete during the fellowship. It must clearly identify the research question and its scope must be such that it can be completed in a year.
- A statement of no more than 500 words that provides a feasibility justification speaking to the manner in which the applicant intends to undertake the fellowship alongside existing commitments. Generic justifications will not suffice and there must be a demonstrable feasibility contained in the statement.
- Applicants will also have to upload their CV and academic transcripts.

Selection Criteria and Process

- Applications will be assessed to shortlist applicants for the interview stage. In the process of shortlisting, in addition to other criteria developed by the panel constituted for this purpose, particular attention will be paid to quality of the research proposal, relevant experience that is closely related to the proposed research, and the demonstrable feasibility of the proposal.
- In addition to the interviews, the University reserves the right to have additional rounds of assessment as required.
- It is not necessary that all 10 positions be filled and the University shall fill only as many positions as it finds suitable applicants for.
- All selected Fellows shall have a common joining and end date and there shall be no flexibility available on this point.
- As stated in the above section, the certificate from NLU Delhi recognising successful completion of the assignment will be issued only once the selected RAs receive a formal acceptance of publication from a double-blind peer reviewed journal that has been identified in concurrence with the faculty member assigned to each RA.

Honorarium

An appropriate honorarium, as may be decided by the University, is also proposed after the completion and publication of the assignment.

Online Form

Applications for this cycle must be submitted only by using the online form available at:

<https://forms.gle/jTfmVabg8TQozsQY9>

Contact

For all queries, please contact The Dean (Research, Planning & Strategic Development) at eklavya@nludelhi.ac.in

Last Date

Registrations as per the details provided above must be submitted to designated e-mail latest by "August 15, 2025". If you do not hear from us within 4 weeks of the deadline, please assume that your application has been unsuccessful. We will not be replying to individual queries on the status of applications.

