

# NLUD: ARC

ADVANCING RESEARCH  
THROUGH COLLABORATION

# GRANT

2025-2026



# INTRODUCTION

Academic collaborations seek to foster the exchange, growth, and circulation of knowledge. Legal academia cannot exist as a stand-alone island, since law is always intertwined with social, cultural, economic, and political life and thus raises critical questions across these spheres. As Duncan Kennedy stated, “law is an aspect of social totality, not just the tail of the dog”. It is therefore essential to create spaces that recognise law as a field marked by diverse approaches and visions. Collaborative scholarship offers one such space. It brings together differing perspectives and generates richer insights by drawing on the diverse intellectual, cultural, and methodological backgrounds of its participants. Collaboration in legal research is therefore more than a practical arrangement. It is a mode of knowledge production that recognises the limits of individual perspective.

At NLUD, we recognize that law itself consists of multiple doctrines, institutions, and interpretive communities, and no single scholar can capture its full complexity. With this vision, NLUD proudly announces the inaugural NLUD ARC (Advancing Research through Collaboration) Grant 2025-2026, designed to support and promote multi-institutional collaborative projects.

# OBJECTIVES

- The grant seeks to foster collaboration between faculty members in law and faculty members in social sciences from different universities and research institutions. Together as one team, they are invited to collaborate and submit joint research proposals.
- We particularly encourage partnerships between law faculty and colleagues in law or the social sciences. The aim is to support socio-legal research that advances knowledge across disciplines and produces meaningful cumulative outcomes

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

(i) Applicants must be faculty members in law or the social sciences.

(ii) Applicants must have at least two publications in SCOPUS/Web of Science indexed journals.

(iii) Each team may include up to three members, with atleast one faculty member from law.

(iv) The Principal Investigator of the project shall have prior experience of coordinating research projects and be a regular faculty member.

(v) Direct nominations of candidates by an educational institute are also encouraged to the extent that collaboration with other institutions is designed in the project proposal and other eligibility criteria are fulfilled.

(vi) The institution of the Principal Investigator shall serve as the primary credit recipient of the grant. The Principal Investigator shall produce a Consent Letter, as attached in Annexure 1 from the institution of the Principal Investigator.

(vii) The organisation and shuffling of funds between the institutions of other members of the team shall be coordinated, and any issues arising from that shall be dealt with by the institution of the Principal Investigator. These arrangements shall be notified to the NLUD.

(viii) Successful Applicants must obtain No Objection Certificate (NOC) from all participating institutions.

(ix) The proposal must be a standalone project and cannot be part of a larger project.

## THEMATIC AREAS COVERED BY THE GRANT

- Law and Technology
- Law and Communities
- Labour, Environment and Sustainable Development
- Degrowth and Development
- Spatiality, Planning and Exclusion
- Women, State and Judicial Approaches
- Citizenship and its Discontents
- Law, Inequity and Welfare Schemes
- Intellectual Property Rights and Human Rights
- Market, Competition and Society
- Pluralism, Normative Diversity and Legal Consciousness
- Socio-Political Movements and Law
- Law against Discrimination and Identity Discourse
- Law, Business and Governance
- Theoretical and Methodological Approaches to Legal Education
- Any other thematic area that overlap with the aforementioned areas

## DURATION AND QUANTUM OF GRANTS

(i) Two annual research grants of Rs. 7.5 lakhs each shall be granted.

(ii) The duration of each grant will be for one year only. Successful applicants must necessarily complete the work under the grant within one year. Only in case of exceptional circumstances relating to the project, the duration may be extended by NLUD

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

(i) Applications will be accepted only through the online form developed for this purpose. The link to the online form is provided at the end of this call for research proposals. Applications must be submitted using the email address of the Project Coordinator.

(ii) Applicants will be required to submit the following documents as part of the online application form. If any of these documents is missing, the application will be considered incomplete and not eligible for consideration:

- A detailed curriculum vitae (CV), duly signed by each member of the applicant team, and containing detailed address for correspondence and communication, should be attached.
- A list of publications from all the applicant members must be attached with proper citations and hyperlinks.
- Research proposal of no more than 2500 words comprising a statement of research objectives and significance of the research, research methodology, and research questions with brief explanations.
- Progress milestones document of no more than 1500 words that provides details on the quarterly targets towards completion of the research proposed within one year.
- Budget outline with no more two-levels of subheads under each head of expenditure. Please note that the total expenses on human resources cannot exceed 70%. Foreign travel for conferences and expenses during such travel are not eligible costs under this grant.

(iii) Applications must be submitted through the online application form available here: <https://forms.gle/7VkB6JcCG3pxC82m8>.

(iv) The deadline for applications is January 15, 2026, 11:59 p.m. IST.

(v) For all queries, please contact: Office of the Dean, Research, Planning & Strategic Development (RP&SD) at: dean-rpsd@nludelhi.ac.in

## SELECTION PROCEDURE

(i) After ensuring that eligibility conditions are met and that necessary documents have been submitted, a Research Grants Selection Committee constituted by the Vice-Chancellor shall assess the applications and shortlist applicants for an interaction and detailed discussion.

(ii) Based on the research proposal and the interview with the applicants by the interdisciplinary expert panel, the Research Grants Selection Committee will recommend two successful applicants.

(iii) NLUD reserves the right to seek more information/ documents during the selection process.

(iv) NLUD reserves the right to not offer the grant to any candidates this year, if it deems the applications received to be unsuitable for the grant.

## DISBURSAL OF FUNDS

(i) The grant will be transferred to the institutional account of the Principal Investigator's host institution.

(ii) The grant of Rs. 7,50,000/- will be disbursed over a period of 12 months in three tranches. The first instalment will be released at the commencement of the project, upon submission of the final proposal including deliverables for the following four months, together with a budgetary statement submitted through the Principal Investigator's institution. The first tranche of Rs. 3,50,000 will thus be disbursed on completing the formalities of accepting this grant and providing us the necessary paperwork.

Thereafter, the second tranche of Rs. 2,50,000 will be disbursed after the half yearly Compliance Report and List of Deliverables for the next six months is submitted, along with an adequate Utilisation Certificate (UC) from the Principal Investigator's institution.

Finally, the last tranche of Rs. 1,50,000 will be disbursed after the publication/acceptance of the publication of the article(s) mandated in the scheme.

## OTHER GRANT CONDITIONS

(i) The University shall designate an appropriate committee for the continuous monitoring of the Project. The Principal Investigator shall require to submit a bimonthly report in the prescribed format, in addition to the additional queries made by the University regarding the Project.

(ii) In the event of the unsatisfactory progress and inordinate delay in carrying out the study, the Principal Investigator shall be liable to refund the entire amount of funds released for this purpose.

(iii) Any further stipulations, and terms and conditions related to the grant shall be communicated to the selected awardees of the grant.

## COMPLETION OUTCOMES

(i) For a successful completion of the grant, resulting in a certificate of completion, you shall:

- Publish the research as an academic paper in a reputed double-blind peer reviewed journal that is indexed in SCOPUS or the Web of Science. In the journal article, an affiliation as "Research Affiliate, ARC Grant, National Law University Delhi" (alongside the author bio) should be included.
- Publish at least 2 short-form pieces, such as blog articles, policy briefs, case briefs, and/or commentaries with an affiliation as "Research Affiliate, ARC Project, National Law University Delhi" (alongside the author bio) should be included.
- Submit a Final Project Report.

(ii) The grantees must be present for a half-yearly meeting with the Monitoring Committee of their grant when called upon by the competent authority.

## POWER TO REMOVE DIFFICULTIES AND REVIEW OF THE POLICY

(i) If there is any lack of clarity in the meaning or interpretation of the above provisions or any difficulties/ absurdities in applying them to particular situations as and when they arise, the Vice-Chancellor has the power to resolve such situations by adopting a reasonable course of action.

(ii) This policy shall be reviewed every two years from the date of it coming into force or at any time that the Vice-Chancellor deems it necessary to review the policy. The Vice-Chancellor shall have the power to constitute a faculty committee to undertake the review envisaged in this provision and the Vice-Chancellor shall also be part of the committee that undertakes such a review.

# ANNEXURE I

Consent Letter from the Institution of the Principal Investigator  
(To be printed on the official letterhead of the Institution)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To,  
The Dean (Research, Planning & Strategic Development)  
National Law University Delhi  
Sector 14, Dwarka, New Delhi – 110078

Subject: Consent Letter to function as Coordinating Institution for the NLUD ARC Grant 2025-2026

Sir/Madam,

This is to confirm that {Name of Institution}, the home institution of the Principal Investigator {Name of Principal Investigator}, agrees to act as the Coordinating Institution for the project titled "{Project Title}", submitted under the NLUD {Name of the Title of Grant}, if the team comprising our candidate is selected.

If selected, we hereby provide our consent and undertake the following:

1. The Institution shall serve as the coordinating institute for the project.
2. The Institution agrees to submit a refined research proposal with timeline document, deliverables and budgetary statement for the first four months through the institution, immediately after its selection.
3. All financial credits, debits, and mutual sharing of funds will be coordinated and supervised by the Institution.
4. The Utilisation Certificate (UC) for each instalment of the grant will be prepared and submitted by the Institution on behalf of the Principal Investigator.
5. The Institution acknowledges the obligation to refund the grant amount in the event that the Principal Investigator fails to carry forward the project in accordance with the deliverables assured in the research proposal.

We confirm our full support for the Principal Investigator in the conduct of this project and our commitment to ensuring compliance with the grant conditions.

Sincerely,  
{Signature and Name of Head of Institution}  
{Seal of the Institution}