

LAW

Law or legal education is one of the most highly revered and reputed courses in India. It is a gateway to various careers in different fields and is taken by a huge number of students every year.

Legal education not only teaches students about the various laws of the country, it also trains them in communication, reasoning and thinking logically. A career in law is not restricted to practicing law in courtroom, although no one can deny that that is one of the most illustrious and challenging options. Studying law opens up a lot of career options. The study of law is considered a serious study, therefore, those who study it are comparatively more patient and detail oriented. Following are some career options one can pursue with a degree in law:

- Attorney
- Case Manager
- Judiciary
- Legal Analyst
- Corporate Counsel
- Social Work
- Academia

And there are many more.

Unlike other forms of professional education such as Medicine and Engineering, Law Education is both professional as well as liberal. Professional because it aims at the acquisition of professional skills and liberal because it imparts value-oriented and socio-cultural education.

Law Degrees in India:

In India, legal education has been traditionally offered as a three years graduate degree. However, now most of the Law colleges offer a five-year integrated B.A. LLB/BBA LLB courses etc. One can either pursue a three-year law course (LLB) after graduation in any discipline or a five-year course after 12th standard examinations. LLB course is sponsored by the Bar Council of India. LLB Stands for Legum Baccalaureus, which, in Latin,

means Bachelor's in Law. B.A.L stands for Bachelor's in Administrative Law. This consists of two years, the third year will enable a student to earn an LLB degree.

Following is a list of Law degrees offered in India:

Integrated undergraduate degrees-

- B.A. LL.B
- B.Sc. LL.B
- BBA LLB
- B.Com. LLB

These degrees are mostly offered in the law schools and have a duration of five years. Students can opt for the above mentioned courses after grade 12. Apart from legal education, these degrees will also impart education related to the field chosen by the student. For example, a degree in B.Com. LLB will impart commerce related education along with legal education.

Among the above mentioned integrated law programs the most popular one is the BA LLB.

Apart from Integrated courses, following are the other law degrees offered in the country:

- Bachelor of Law (LL.B.): The LL.B. is the most common law degree offered and conferred by Indian universities which has a duration of three years. Almost all law universities follow a standard LL.B. curriculum, wherein students are exposed to the required Bar subjects.
- This program is generally pursued after completing graduation.
- Master of Law (LL.M.): The LL.M. is the most famous postgraduate law degree which has a duration of one/two years.
- Master of Business Law: This master's degree specially focuses on business and corporate law.
- Integrated MBL-LLM/ MBA-LLM: Generally a three years double degree integrated course with specialization in business law.
- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Law

Subject requirements in class 12:

There is no specific subject requirement for taking up law, students from any stream (Science stream/ Commerce stream I Humanities stream) in 12th can pursue Law. However, courses taken in humanities are more beneficial.

What does it teach?

Apart from studying laws, the law programs at the bachelor level also cover practical training. It includes court attendance, hands on training at legal aid centers and research projects. To be able to practice, it is mandatory to put in a year's internship. This may be done during the course of the final year.

The course of study at the Bachelor level is basically the study of General Law after which a student will automatically develop interest towards specific areas. Later in the course, students have to choose an area in which they wish to specialize.

Some areas of specialization in Law are listed below:

- Administrative
- Civil Litigation
- Constitutional
- Corporate and Commercial
- Criminal
- Environmental
- Human Rights
- Family
- Intellectual Property
- International Law
- Immigration
- Labor and Employment
- Real Estate
- Securities
- Tax

Naturally, all master's degrees can be pursued only after completing graduation. Once a student completes his or her degree, he/she will have to appear for the Bar Council Exam. The Bar Council of India is a statutory body that regulates legal education and practice in India. In order to become a professional lawyer, a student must pass the Bar exam after completing graduation.

Students are also required to do an internship of at-least 4 months in which they have to complete 4 'diaries'. While doing this, the student has to attend a session in court in each of the fields, study the entire case, write a report and then submit it for approval.

Moot courts:

There is also the concept of 'Moot Courts' while studying law. A moot court is an activity in which the environment and proceedings of a real court is simulated. Cases are given to students and they have to argue it in front of real judges.

Students are divided into teams of 3

or 4. Once a student has completed the first two years of the undergrad law course, he/she is eligible to participate in national moot court competition organized by national colleges such as NLUs and many others.

Common Law Admission Test (CLAT):

A very important aspect of planning a career in law in India is the national level entrance exam called CLAT. A highly competitive exam, CLAT finds thousands of students applying every year, to get into the top law colleges. Let's take a closer look.

CLAT or the Common Law Admission Test is an all India test. Based on the exam scores students are awarded seats for law courses in the National Law Universities across India. There are 21 NLU's (National Law Universities) that participate in this entrance test and conduct it every year on rotation basis. The universities are:

- 1.Chanakya National Law University, Patna (CNLU)

- 2.Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, Visakhapatnam (DSNLU)
- 3.Dharmashtra National Law University, Jabalpur (MPDNLU)
- 4.Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow (RMLNLU)
- 5.Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar (GNLU)
- 6.H.P. National Law University, Shimla(HPNLU)
- 7.Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur (HNLU)
- 8.Maharashtra National Law University, Aurangabad (MNLU)
- 9.Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai (MNLU)
10. Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur (MNLU)
11. National Academy of Legal Study and Research University of Law, Hyderabad (NALSAR)
12. National Law School of India University, Bangalore (NLSIU)
13. National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam (NLUJAA)
14. National Law University Odisha, Cuttack (NLUO)
15. National Law University, Jodhpur (NLUJ)
16. National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi (NUSRL)
17. Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab (RGNUL)
18. Tamil Nadu National Law School, Tiruchirappalli (TNNLS)
19. The National Law Institute University, Bhopal (NLIU)
20. The National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi (NUALS)
21. The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata (WBNUJS)

Apart from the above mentioned NLUs, the CLAT score is considered for admission to law programs by many other institutions in India. To be precise, up until 2019, a total of 41 other universities. The names are:

- Academy of Law, Mahatma Jyoti Rao Phoole University, Jaipur
- Alliance School of Law, Alliance University
- Amity University, U.P.
- Aryans College of Law, Punjab
- Asian Law College, Noida
- Bennett University, Greater Noida, NCT Region UP
- DIRD College, Delhi
- Dr. K N Modi University, Jaipur
- Geeta Institute of Law, Panipat, Delhi NCR
- GITAM School of Law, Rushikonda, Visakhapatnam
- GLA University Mathura, Uttar Pradesh
- Glocal Law School, Glocal University Saharanpur Uttar Pradesh
- Gujarat Maritime University, Ahmedabad
- Harlal School of Law, Knowledge Park I, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- ICFAI Law School, ICFAI University, Dehradun
- ICFAI University, Tripura
- Indore Institute of Law, Indore
- Institute of Law, Nirma University, Ahmedabad
- ISBR Law College, Bangalore
- Kalinga University, Naya Raipur, CG
- Kirit P. Mehta School of Law, SVKM's NMIMS (Deemed-to-be-University) Mumbai
- Law College Dehradun
- LLOYD Law College
- Maharishi Law School, Maharishi University of Information Technology, NCR Delhi
- Manipal University, Jaipur, Rajasthan
- Marwadi University, Rajkot, Gujarat
- NIMT Institute of Method and Law, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- REVA University, Bangalore, Karnataka
- RNB Global University, Bikaner, Rajasthan

- School of Law, JIMS Engineering and Management Technical Campus
- School of Law, Oriental University, Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- School of Law, Presidency University, Bengaluru
- School of Legal Studies, Mody University, Lakshmangarh Rajasthan
- Shobhit University, Modipuram, Meerut, U.P.
- Shri Vaishnav Institute of Law, Indore
- Siddharth Law College, Dehradun
- SRM University Delhi-NCR, Sonapat
- The North Cap University, Gurugram, Haryana
- United World School of Law, Karnavati University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies,
- Xavier Law School, Xavier University, Bhubaneswar

Note: The universities that accept the score of an entrance exam keep getting added or subtracted from the list each year. Hence it is strongly recommended that one must check for this before suggesting to any student.

Pattern of the CLAT

This table explains the pattern of the questions which are asked in CLAT. It also gives an insight about the areas in which a student aspiring to study law is expected to be well informed. Students who want to study law must pass the CLAT and it is strongly recommended that they start preparing right from grade 11.

Total Marks	200
Total number of multiple-choice questions of one mark each	200
Duration of examination	2 Hours

Subject areas with weightage	
English including Comprehension	40 Marks
General Knowledge and Current Affairs	50 Marks
Elementary Mathematics {Numerical Ability)	20 Marks
Legal Aptitude	50 Marks
Logical Reasoning	40 Marks

There is a negative marking of 0.25 for every incorrect answer.

LSAT- INDIA

Another important law entrance exam that is conducted in India is the LSAT- India. It is a standardized test of reading and verbal reasoning skills designed by the USA-based Law School Admission Council (LSAC) for use by law schools in India.

The LSAT—India is administered in multiple cities across the country usually in the month of May or June. It is a paper-and-pencil test with four sections. The duration of the test is 2 hours and 20 minutes and it has multiple choice questions. The Registration Fee as of now is Rs. 3800/-.

Candidates can register for LSAT—India through ONLINE mode only. The registration window is usually opened in October and lasts till May.

Here is the pattern that the test follows:

Section	Number of Questions	Timing
Analytical Reasoning	Approx. 24	35 minutes
1st Logical Reasoning	Approx. 24	35 minutes
2nd Logical Reasoning	Approx. 24	35 minutes
Reading Comprehension	Approx. 24	35 minutes
Total: 4 sections	92-100 questions	2 hours and 20

There is no negative marking or penalty for guessing. Only correct answers contribute to a candidate's score. Therefore, candidates should leave no question unanswered and guess on those questions they cannot carefully consider. There are more than 50 Indian Law colleges that accept the LSAT India score. Some of the popular names are:

- Jindal Global Law School
- Amity University, Gurgaon
- Bennett University
- Kalinga University
- VIT Law School
- Azim Premji University
- SRM University
- ICFAI University

Apart from the national universities, students can also consider applying to some of the private and autonomous universities which conduct their own entrance exams. Few of the popular universities/colleges and their respective entrance tests are mentioned below.

Law School	Entrance exam
National Law University, Delhi	AILET
Symbiosis Law School, Pune	Symbiosis Entrance Test (SET)
Faculty of Law, BHU	All India Entrance Exam by BHU
Amity Law School, Delhi	Common Entrance Test (CET)
Faculty of Law, Aligarh Muslim University	AMU Law Admission Test
Army Institute of Law, Mohali	Army Institute of Law Entrance Test
Christ College of Law, Bangalore	Christ University Entrance Test

Career Prospects in India

Lawyers can find employment opportunities in public and private sector organizations. Most Lawyers prefer to become an advocate

and practice law as a profession. For that they have to enroll with the Local/State/Central Bar Council. Central/State Government jobs are also open to Lawyers. They can be appointed as:

- Judges of various courts,
- Attorneys and Solicitor Generals
- Public Prosecutors
- Various posts in the Defense, Tax and Labor departments

Moreover Lawyers can also work as Legal Counsel and Legal Advisers for firms, organizations and families. They also can be appointed as Company Secretaries in various firms.

They also can work with legal consultancy firms dealing with tax, excise, patent, labor and environmental laws.

Apart from the above options, they can also work as

- Trustees of various trusts
- Law reporters in media companies
- As a teacher/professor in Law schools and college
- Politicians, as they have good public contacts
- In Non-Profit Organizations (NGOs)
- In international agencies like UNO, ILO, and ICJ as they also employ Lawyers of good reputation and track records.

Careers in Law as Lawyers:

There are different aspects to a lawyer's work depending on which field they specialize in. Here are a few examples.

- **Private lawyers** focus on civil or criminal law, representing private individuals. In civil law they pursue private law suits or litigation, or deal with wills, contracts, trusts, mortgages, leases etc.
- **A Criminal Lawyer's** career entails arguing a client's case in court, following the client being charged with a crime. Some lawyers only handle larger, public interest cases that have wider social importance
- **Trial lawyers** spend more time in court than other lawyers.

However, the majority of their time is spent conducting research, interviewing clients and witnesses, and preparing for trial.

➤ **Corporate lawyers** work solely for corporate clients and advise them on legal issues around their business activities. A career as a corporate lawyer might involve sorting out issues relating to contracts with other companies, government, regulations, patents etc.

➤ **Intellectual property lawyers** help to protect clients' claims to copyrights, creative work under contract, product designs, and computer programs.

➤ **Patent lawyers** advise their clients on patent law, which allows them to protect their invention of a new product or process. A career as a patent lawyer therefore requires a lot of research as a patent can only be granted if the product or process is new, inventive and capable of industrial application.

➤ **Insurance lawyers** advise insurance companies about the legality of insurance transactions, writing policies that are legally correct. They also help to protect companies from unwarranted action by reviewing claims and representing the company in court.

➤ **Environmental lawyers** may represent pressure groups, interest groups, and companies whose work touches on environmental issues, such as construction, geological and waste management firms. These lawyers help their clients to apply for licenses and applications for activities which may affect the environment, or defend their clients if prosecuted by the authorities over environmental breaches.

➤ **Government lawyers** work as prosecutors and defenders on behalf of the state within the justice system.

Lawyers handle a variety of legal tasks for their clients. They might represent individuals accused of a crime, a corporation facing a civil lawsuit, or prepare wills for a recently married couple. Some lawyers choose to specialize in a particular area, such as tax law or bankruptcy. Successful lawyers possess

certain skills, and the financial rewards for those with the right personal qualities can be substantial.

Students who study law should develop the following traits to be successful in their careers:

➤ **Communication Skills:** Lawyers need to possess good oral communication skills in order to be effective in the courtroom and make convincing arguments to judges and juries. They must have good written communication skills because they might have to write a variety of documents, including legal case studies. They must also be good listeners, able to follow complex testimony or to understand and analyze what clients tell them.

➤ **Critical Analysis:** The ability to think critically is important for lawyers. They must be able to follow a chain of logic to identify potential trouble areas in their own arguments, and to spot weaknesses in the reasoning presented by their opposition or even their own clients.

Lawyers must often exercise their good sense of judgment in deciding the best course of action to pursue.

➤ **Interpersonal Skills:** Lawyers should be able to persuade clients to follow their advice or convince the opposition to negotiate a resolution. This requires the ability to read people and figure out the best approach to take when making your points. When presenting a case, lawyers must be able to read how jurors react to statements and testimony, and they need to read witnesses well enough to know whether the individual's testimony is honest and unbiased.

➤ **Analytical Skills:** Lawyers must absorb a great deal of information, both during law school and when preparing a case, then be able to organize and analyze the information in a logical manner. If more than one law or precedent applies to a situation, lawyers must evaluate which argument best advances their cause.

➤ **Perseverance:** The mere act of becoming a lawyer requires a great deal of commitment. The typical path is a bachelor's degree, followed by law school, which lasts three years. The

lawyer must then pass the state bar exam before being allowed to practice law. Once they pass the bar and begin accepting cases, a lawyer often has to spend many hours preparing the case. They spend a lot of time conducting research, preparing documents and interviewing witnesses. Lawyers need a willingness to invest the time needed to be successful.

Top Colleges and institutions to pursue law:

There are various colleges and institutions in the country which offer courses in law. Following are the top colleges specified under the course for which they are best known.

Top colleges for B.A LLB:

- National Law School of India University
- Gujarat National Law University (GNLU)
- National Law Institute University (NLIU)
- National University of Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS)
- National Academy of Legal Studies and Research University (NALSAR)

Top Colleges for B.Sc. LLB:

- Gujarat National Law University
- Faculty of law
- Delhi University
- Amity Law School, Noida

Top Colleges for BBA LLB:

- Amity University, Uttar Pradesh
- National Law University Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- Symbiosis Law School, Maharashtra

Top Colleges for B.Com. LLB:

- Nirma University
- Delhi University
- Gujarat National Law University
- Amity Law School
- Brief profiles of the top colleges mentioned above:

National Law School of India University (NLSIU Bangalore):

The National Law School of India University (NLSIU) is an institution for undergraduate and graduate legal education in India. It was the first ever National Law University to be established in India. NLSIU was the first institute in India to offer a pioneering 5 year intensive course in social sciences and law. The school consistently ranks as the most prestigious law school in India. Admission is through CLAT.

Gujarat National Law University (GNLU):

Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) is a National Law University established under the Gujarat National Law University Act, 2003" in the state of Gujarat. It is one of the most prestigious law universities in India, the university is located at Gandhinagar, which is the capital of Gujarat.

Admission is through CLAT. Being one of the top university of law the admission is very competitive.

Seats available are 180.

National Law Institute University (NLIU):

National Law Institute University (NLIU) is a law school and center for research located in Bhopal, India. Established in 1997 by the State of Madhya Pradesh, it is one of the first three law schools to have been established under the National Law School system. Since its establishment, NLIU has consistently been rated among the three best law schools in India. Admission is done through CLAT.

National University of Advanced Legal Studies {NUALS}:

The National University of Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS) (earlier National Institute for Advanced Legal Studies) is situated in Kochi, India for undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate legal education. Admission is through CLAT.

National Academy of Legal Studies and Research University (NALSAR): NALSAR University of Law, or officially the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR), is a legal studies institution located in Hyderabad, India. It was established in 1998 as a state university by an Act of the State

Legislative Assembly (Act 34 of 1998). The university which is fully residential and conducts teaching in law, is ranked as the best law school in India.

National Law University, Delhi:

NLU, Delhi is one of the top most university in India. The admission to the universities law course is through All India Law Entrance Test (AILET).

Amity University, Uttar Pradesh:

Amity University is one of the top university. Admission to the course is through its own entrance exam.

National Law University Jodhpur, Rajasthan:

National Law University, Jodhpur is a premier law Institution in India. The admission is through CLAT. It is one of the top 15 National Law University. The University offers both undergraduate and post-graduate courses in various streams of law. NLU, like the other top law schools in the country offers the integrated 5 year law program. NLU is one of the few universities that provide multidisciplinary undergraduate programs to meet this challenge.

Symbiosis Law School, Maharashtra:

Symbiosis Law School is a constituent college of the Symbiosis International University. SLS has been one of the pioneers in India, in introducing B.B.A., LL.B. program. It encompasses advanced technical knowledge of law coupled with fundamentals of business management. They have their own Entrance Exam. The Entrance Test is followed by Group Exercise and Personal Interview which makes SLS the first law school to adopt admission through these steps. SLS provides undergraduate, post graduate, diploma and as well as certificate course.

Nirma University:

Nirma University (ILNU) marked its distinct place in the legal education map of the country. The Institute today boasts of faculty whose expertise spans across various areas of law and who have a wide range of teaching and research experience.

Amity Law School:

The university offers a five year degree program B.Com L.L.B (Hons) to students. Amity Law School is Uttar Pradesh. The School has been granted affiliation by the Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi for running a 5-year Integrated LLB(H) program and the affiliation has been approved by the Bar Council of India.

Jindal Global Law School:

The Law School is one the pioneers in attempting to offer more global law education to its students. The school offers 5 law based programs across various levels, namely:

- BA LLB
- BBA LLB
- LLB
- LLM
- PhD

The admission to the undergraduate courses is through LSAT-India percentile.

Fees:

Another important factor that is taken into consideration when making a choice about the college is the fees that the students would have to pay. Law education is made up of specialized professional courses. Hence it is obvious that it would not be at a fee that is comparable to the other BA/BSc courses. However, most of the government-aided Law universities can charge you anywhere from 5000 to 20000 per year. For the private universities that fee is higher and can start from an approximate 1 lakh per year and move to more.

A day in a lawyer's life:

- A lawyer deals with challenging situations every day of his career.
- Lawyers appear in courtrooms and verbally argue the cases of their clients.

- They study laws deeply and very carefully, this requires huge patience and an eye for detail.
- They communicate with various people, including clients, witnesses, government officials, law enforcement officials etc. to compile facts.
- If they are appointed as legal advisors, lawyers go through various documents of the organization and keep an eye on every legal aspect to make sure that nothing is going against the law.

KEY TAKEAWAY

- Law or legal education is a highly reputed option of higher education. Legal education not only teaches students about the various laws of the country, it will also train them in communication, reasoning and thinking logically
- There are several ways through which a student can study law.
- Students can enroll for the integrated undergraduate degrees such as B.A. LL.B., B.Sc. LL.B., BBA LLB. and B.Com. LL.B. They can also pursue a masters in their branches. The admission to the undergraduate law courses is based on entrance exams.
- Students who want to pursue law as a career should be well versed in English, be excellent communicators and logical thinkers.
- Apart from becoming lawyers, those who study law can become legal advisors for corporate organizations, tax consultants, professors, journalists and even politicians.