



## **MAHARASHTRA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY MUMBAI**

### ABOUT US

Mumbai has a glorious tradition of legal education and legal research which is being patronized by its elite juristic community. It pioneered the advent of modern Indian jurisprudence and shaped the formal legal education through tiring contributions made by eminent members at the Bench and the Bar. Its share of judges at the Apex Court has been most significant; and this supremacy still continues.

As a measure of improving the quality of legal education to bring it at par with the global standard, the Bar Council of India, on the advice of the Supreme Court of India, introduced a vastly improved curriculum, to be taught as a five-year integrated programme in national law universities. The National Law School of India University, set up in Bangalore by the Government of Karnataka as an experimental model, was an instant success. This prompted other states to follow suit and a series of national law schools came up in succession with patronage of respective Governments. The movement gained support, advice and cooperation from the higher judiciary in full measure. The Chief Justice of India, or his nominated brother judge, is the Chancellor of each of these state universities. Today, the reputation of national law schools as centres of quality legal education is firmly established.

Government of Maharashtra, having come late in the scene, adopted a strategy not hitherto followed by any other Government so far. In enacting the Maharashtra National Law University Act in 2014 (ACT VI of 2014), it enabled establishment of multiple NLUs in the state at different locations. At the first instance, three Law Universities, one each in Mumbai, Nagpur and Aurangabad, were approved and notified. The Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai was the

first to be established under the Act of 2014 in Mumbai on March 10, 2014. This fulfilled the long cherished aspiration of Mumbaikars for a premier law institution, capable of satisfying varied needs of different stake-holders and paved the way for innovative, skill-based legal education of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Hon'ble Chief Justice of India nominated Hon'ble Mr. Justice S A Bobde, Judge, Supreme Court of India as the Chancellor of the Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai. Its governing bodies comprise of distinguished judges, senior advocates, seasoned bureaucrats and eminent academicians. It is with the support and guidance of these luminaries that the University has come with a promise to promote excellence in legal education. Being mindful of the high standards already set up, and the rising expectation from it, the University is committed to work for instilling value education. Dominant endeavour will be to breed a cadre of committed lawyers ready to accept the challenges to the tests of law, and justice delivery system and to cater to the legal needs of the nation including corporate, urban and rural posit. The onerous responsibility can be discharged only with building inhouse capacity led by committed teachers and researches.

Subject to observing the policies with regard to reservation of seats for appointments and admission as also the welfare of various categories of weaker sections and minorities as may be formulated by the Government of Maharashtra from time to time, the University is open to all citizen of India for employment and no discrimination shall be made on the ground of sex, race, creed, class, place of birth, religious belief or professional or political or other opinion. International academic collaboration, including student/teacher exchange programmes, shall be based on memoranda of understanding with foreign institutions in conformity with the national policy.

Affairs of the University are run under the direction of various statutory bodies represented by members of the Judiciary, senior, bureaucrats, educationists and legal luminaries.

(i) The General Council

It is the chief advisory body of the University headed by the Hon'ble Chancellor. The Council reviews the broad policies and programmes of the University and suggest measures for improvement and development of the University.

(ii) The Executive Council

The Executive Council is the chief executive body of the University. The Vice-Chancellor is the Chairperson and senior members of the judiciary, administration and academia are its members.

(iii) The Academic Council

All academic matters of the University are regulated by the Academic council headed by the Vice-Chancellor. It is empowered with the control and maintenance of standards of instruction, education and examination of the University.

(iv) The Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is authorized to control and monitor the financial affairs of the University. It oversees the incoming and outgo of University funds and keeps strict vigil over proper custody of public money. The Vice-Chancellor is the Chairperson of the Finance Committee.

Following are the officers of the University:

- (i) The Vice-Chancellor
- (ii) The Registrar
- (iii) The Head of Departments
- (iv) The Finance & Accounts Officer

The Vice-Chancellor exercises all powers of the Executive Council

on its behalf and performs all acts as may be considered necessary to give effect to the provisions of MNLU Act 2014. The Registrar is the ex-officio Secretary to the Executive Council, the Academic Council and the Finance Committee and is the custodian of the property of the University.

MNLU Mumbai has been publicly acclaimed as one of the most prestigious projects of the Government of Maharashtra. The process of raising the campus of the University at the shortest possible time is being emphasised, as success of any law school is closely linked with its ability to provide the right the academic ambience for its students and teachers. As an interim arrangement, the University is operating for the past one year from hired premises facilitated by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences at Deonar. It is a temporary arrangement to be availed for a limited period.

Law schools have been conceptualised to be fully residential. However, MNLU Mumbai is forced to allow day scholarship to some of its students, as it is extremely difficult to find proper residential accommodation in the vicinity of the University to build hostels.

The University has a reasonably well-stocked library with on-line facilities.

It is the obligation of the University to adhere to the directives of the Bar Council of India for maintaining standards of legal education. The national law schools of India pursue a policy of ‘beyond compliance’ by which they constantly endeavour to improve upon the minimum standard set by the BCI, design and review the curriculum on periodic intervals without diluting the basic structure, introduce innovative methods of pedagogy, thus encouraging students to discover by themselves the nuances of law and their applicability in real life situations. Academic engagements are entirely student-centric, where teachers have limited role as facilitators.

Alongside class-room activities, students participate in a host of co-curricular activities, designed to improve skill and professional techniques. Each undergraduate student has to compulsorily undergo internship for a minimum period of two weeks twice in every year.

The University has been empowered under Section 22 of the University Grants Commission Act 1956 to award degrees as recognised.

MNLU Mumbai commenced academic programmes from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2015. It offered two programmes, one-year LL M on Legal Pedagogy and Research and five-year integrated BA LLB (Hons.). Students were selected for admission through a national level on-line admission test. Intake was 08 for LL M and 61 for LL B programme. In five years, divided in ten semesters, undergraduate students pursue as many as 60 subjects of 4 credits each. Presentation of research-based project work on each of the sixty subjects is mandatory for every student.

In order to obtain the degree, a student of B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) is required to attain minimum 200 credits by pursuing the mandatory courses prescribed by the Bar Council of India and other elective courses offered by the University. Students are also required to pursue foundational mandatory courses from humanities curriculum. After each semester, students have to undergo compulsory internship. MNLU Mumbai is also exploring possibilities to impart foreign language courses such as German, French and Chinese. The courses shall be extra and optional.

As the courses will advance depending upon the availability of the resources such as teachers and expertise and basing on the best interest of the students additional elective courses will be considered with flexibility of credit transferability. A two-credit course on Mediation Law was conducted in April-May 2016. Elective courses will be announced with minimum of 15 hours duration for one credit

program as and when the competent teachers are available to design, conduct and evaluate the course in wholesome.

MNLU Mumbai, by virtue of its becoming a member of the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) of the National Law Universities, will admit students through CLAT from 2016 onwards.

The Executive Council having created posts sanctioned by Government of Maharashtra, the University has undertaken to recruit regular employees on UGC time-scale of pay. The University is now ready to welcome a professionally Competent, highly motivated and scholarly oriented batch of teachers who are ambitious, ready to for odd hours so as to transform our legal education as globally competent. Since the University is now in the making, it is expected that its teachers and key functionaries work in a mission mode, compromise self – comfort and put in extra efforts to build a centre for excellence.

The recruitment process is designed to be online. Application to various posts may be made on line from 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 2016 to 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017.