

# A Guidebook on How to Become a Lawyer in India



**A lawyer is an educated and licensed expert who can give legal advice and draft legal documents. Lawyers are professionals who are compensated for assisting clients in resolving legal disputes. Attorneys deal with a wide variety of situations, including those involving divorce, property disputes, marital problems, and criminal allegations.**

**Potentially satisfying work and high compensation are two potential benefits of a career in law. Understanding the duties of lawyers and the procedures required to enter their ranks can help you decide if this is the right career path for you.**

# How to Become a Lawyer in India?

To become a lawyer in India, one must meet certain educational requirements and pass relevant examinations. Essentially, the following are the steps you must take to enter the legal profession:

## 1. Complete 10+2 Credentials

For admission to a law school's bachelor's programme, you must have completed your schooling at a high school accredited by a recognised education board in India. To earn a bachelor's degree to become a lawyer in India, one need not come from a legal background, whereas students from all streams can apply.

## 2. Obtain a Graduation Degree from Any Stream

After completing the standard 10+2 curriculum, prospective lawyers can enroll in a full-fledged LL.B. programme. If you want to go that route, you need a bachelor's degree from a recognised and affiliated university.

## 3. Clear Law Entrance Exam

Most colleges that grant law degrees base their acceptance decisions on exam scores. One of the country's most widely taken entrance exams is the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT). A CLAT score of at least 50% is required for admissions consideration. The vast majority of schools of law accept the CLAT.

There are several alternative entry exams for law schools.

- Common Entrance Test for Law Schools in Maharashtra (CELMH),
- Law School Admissions Test (LSAT),
- All-India Law Entrance Examination (AILET),
- Symbiosis Law Admissions Test (SLAT) (MH-CET)

## 4. Apply to a Law School

Once you obtain your results from the law school entrance exam, you can begin applying at the top Law colleges in India. Each application must be accompanied by official documents such as transcripts, law exam results, recommendation letters, and more.

Schools are actively seeking applicants with high CLAT scores, glowing recommendation letters, and active participation in the campus community. If you want to show that you're serious about becoming an attorney, getting an internship at a local courthouse or law office is a good option.

## **5. Earn a Four-Year Legal Degree**

As a part of your pathway to becoming a lawyer in India, you must enrol in courses like political science, sociology, and economics. Studying these fields will give you an edge in navigating the legal system of your future clients. You also need to take courses on criminal law, family law, and the constitution if you want to practice different types of laws.

## **6. Appear in AIBE**

To become a lawyer in India and begin your practice; then you must pass the All India Bar Examination (AIBE). The Bar Council of India administers this examination once a year, and interested parties need to sign up in advance. It would help if you were a registered advocate with a State Bar Council before you can take the All India Bar Examination.

## **7. Learn from It**

To practice law as a profession, you must first pass the AIBE. The next logical step would be to seek employment as an associate advocate at a law firm or to launch a solo legal practice.

## **Law Specialization**

Academic prowess alone cannot guarantee success if you want to become a lawyer in India. One of the primary indicators of success in the legal arena is the specialisation in law and analysing the scope of the law as a career. It would help if you acquired professional competence through actual work with lawyers.

Some of the many possible subfields of study in this subject include:

- Common Law and Criminal Law
- Business Law
- Tax Law
- Employment Law
- International Law
- Family Regulations
- Legal System

## **Is an Advocate Similar to a Lawyer?**

In the legal system, advocates are specially trained lawyers who can represent their clients in court. Advocates are lawyers who have passed the state's rigorous bar examination. Any college graduate with a degree in law, regardless of whether or not they passed the bar test, is referred to as a Lawyer.

## **A Career in Legal System in India- Scope of Law**

In modern times, you can see disputes in many sectors apart from civil and criminal cases. Being a lawyer no longer merely entails fighting petty cases before a judge. Other popular paths in law include specialising as a lawyer. To become a lawyer in India, one must engage in litigation, the judicial system, and legal entrepreneurship.

- Being a professor in the field of law, or any of its subfields, is an excellent profession with a wide range of potential worldwide.
- Covering the law for publication: You can collaborate with diverse organisations to uncover the facts behind people's most pressing social concerns.
- Legal Aid in India: This allows you to serve as a law enforcement officer or government legal counsel in various government agencies.
- Lawyers and Advocates: As an attorney, you can be the go-to person for organisations and businesses, guiding them through sticky legal circumstances.

## TOP LAW COLLEGES AND DETAIL INFORMATION:

### 1. National Law School of India University (NLSIU Bangalore)

NLSIU Bangalore is a UGC recognised university and a member of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU). The university was ranked 1st in the list of NLUs by NIRF and Outlook. It provides students with internship opportunities and student exchange programmes. NLSIU Bangalore focuses on research programs through 13 university research centres.

Ranking	No.1 NLU by NIRF 2023,
Fees	3.93 lacs per annum (BA-LLB Hons) 3.93 lacs per annum (LLM)
Placements (2022)	Total Placement Offers: 65 Median salary: 16 lacs per annum Recruiters: Trilegal, L&L Partners, Societe Generale, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, HDFC Bank, etc.
Eligibility	Entrance exam accepted: CLAT

### 2. National Law University (NLU Delhi)

NLU Delhi is one of the best and leading NLUs in India. With a score of 3.59, NLU Delhi has been accredited by NAAC with an 'A' grade. The university offers various courses in different specialisations of law like BA LLB, LLM, etc. One of the major reasons for a good ranking of NLU Delhi is its teaching and educational pedagogy, which includes tutorials and seminars by law experts and experienced faculty.

Ranking	No.2 NLU by NIRF 2023
Fees	1.42 lacs per annum (BA-LLB Hons) 1.25 lacs (LLM)
Placements (2022)	Total Placement Offers: 59  Median Salary: 19 lacs per annum  Recruiters: L&L Partners, Trilegal, S&R associates, P&A law offices, Khaitan & Co., etc.
Eligibility	Entrance exam accepted: AILET

### 3. NALSAR University of Law (NLU Hyderabad)

This university was founded in 1989 and offers numerous full-time degrees and courses in various fields of management and law. The university has collaborated with various research centres and universities like the Centres for Children Law and Ethics (Samford University), University of Ireland, etc., to conduct research programs.

Ranking	No.3 NLU by NIRF 2023
Fees	1.5 lacs per annum (BA-LLB Hons)  67 thousand per annum (LLM)
Placements (2022)	Total Placement Offers: 96

	<p>Median Salary: 16 lacs per annum</p> <p>Recruiters: L&amp;L Partners, Trilegal, Linklaters LLP, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, AZB &amp; Partners, etc.</p>
Eligibility	Entrance exam accepted: CLAT

#### 4. The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS)

NUJS was established in 1999 and has been ranked 4th for law by NIRF 2023. The university offers five-year BA-LLB Hons and BSc-LLB courses focusing on student learning through moot court competitions and legal research.

Ranking	No.4 for law by NIRF 2023
Fees	1.96 lacs each semester (10 semesters) for BA-LLB
Placements (2022)	<p>Average package: 16 lacs</p> <p>Recruiters: Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, Trilegal, Khaitan &amp; Co, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, Desai &amp; Diwanji, etc.</p>
Eligibility	Entrance exam accepted: CLAT

#### 5. Faculty of Law (Jamia Millia Islamia Delhi)

Established in 1989, Jamia Millia Islamia is a government university that offers nine courses across the streams of management and law. It is ranked 5th for law by NIRF 2023.

Ranking	No.5 for law by NIRF 2023
Fees	15,000 per annum (BA-LLB Hons)
Placements (2022)	Median Salary: 5.4 lacs  Recruiters: HDFC bank, Trilegal, KPMG, Khaitan & Co, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, IndusLaw, etc.
Eligibility	Entrance exam accepted: JMI entrance exam

## 6. Symbiosis Law School (SLS Pune)

Symbiosis International University (SIU) is a big campus that has separate institutes for various UG and PG courses in the field of law, management, communication, arts and humanities, etc.

Ranking	No.6 for law by NIRF 2023
Fees	1.91 lacs (BBA-LLB Hons)
Placements (2022)	Median Salary: 8.2 lacs  Recruiters: Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, Trilegal, Khaitan & Co, ICICI bank, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, IndusLaw, etc.
Eligibility	Entrance exam accepted: SLAT

## 7. Gujarat National Law University (GNLU Gandhinagar)

GNLU Gandhinagar is one of the few law universities established by the Government of India. The university offers UG courses in five fields, more than 10 PG, and doctoral courses in law and interdisciplinary.

Ranking	No.7 for law by NIRF 2023
Fees	2.58 lacs (BBA, B.Com LLB Hons) 2.62 lacs (LLM)
Placements (2022)	Average Salary: 15.4 lacs Recruiters: Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, Trilegal, Khaitan & Co, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, IndusLaw, etc.
Eligibility	Entrance exam accepted: CLAT

## 8. Siksha O' Anusandhan National School of Law

Located in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, this law school offers courses in BA-LLB, LLB and LLM with specializations in corporate and commercial law, and criminal and security law. In addition, they also offer a doctoral program in law.

Ranking	No.8 for law by NIRF 2023
Fees	75,000 per semester (BBA-LLB Hons) 75,000 per semester (LLM) 60,000 per semester (LLB)

Placements (2022)	Median Salary: 5.4 lacs  Recruiters: Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, Khaitan & Co, ICICI bank, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, IndusLaw, etc.
Eligibility	Entrance exam accepted: CLAT/LSAT

### 9. Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law- IIT, Kharagpur

The Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law, the first of its kind in the IIT system caters to the need for lawyers with technical expertise. The School offers three programs; LL.B with Honours Intellectual Property Rights; LL.M; and Doctoral Program in Law.

Ranking	No.9 for law by NIRF 2023
Fees	85,000 per semester (LLB)  1.05 lacs per semester (LLM)
Placements (2022)	Median Salary: 9 lacs  Recruiters: Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, Khaitan & Co., Chadha & Chadha, Bajaj and Ola Electric, etc
Eligibility	Entrance exam accepted: they conduct their own entrance exam

### 10. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University

The Department of Law offers four-Semester LL.M, Ph.D. and BBA LL.B. (H) programmes. The focus here is on providing a well-rounded legal education with an interdisciplinary approach.

Ranking	No.10 for law by NIRF 2023
Fees	60,000 per semester (BBA- LLB) 55,000 per semester (LLM)
Placements (2022)	Median Salary: 5.1 lacs Recruiters: Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, Khaitan & Co., Chadha & Chadha, Bajaj and Ola Electric, etc
Eligibility	Entrance exam accepted: CUET