

## **School of Law, Governance and Citizenship**

**Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD)**

**(Established by the Government of Delhi)**

**Karampura Campus**

### **Bulletin of Information**

**PhD Programme in Legal Studies/ PhD Programme in Law**

**Admissions 2022-2023 and 2023-2024**

#### **School of Law, Governance and Citizenship (SLGC)**

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi, which was established in 2007 by the Govt. of the NCT Delhi through an Act of Legislature, was mandated to focus on research and teaching in the social sciences and humanities guided by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision of bridging equality and social justice with excellence. The School of Law, Governance and Citizenship, established in 2017 has since its inception strived to realise this vision through its attempts to engage with education in its multiple dimensions and contexts, through its Masters Programme, in Law, Politics and Society and BA Programme in Law and Politics. With a vision to expand the study of Legal Studies, the School aims to foster a greater interaction between a macro level study of law as a phenomenon and the institutional context and dynamics of the practice of law at the micro level informed by global and local perspectives, which requires a more intense and sustained engagement with research. The doctoral programme has been designed to address the need to develop scholars who are well prepared to engage in research on legal studies from different dimensions and in various locations of practice. The School will award PhD with two different nomenclature. Students who enrol for a PhD with a Masters in Law will graduate with a PhD in Law and students with Master's degree in other disciplines will be awarded a PhD in Legal Studies.

#### **PhD Programme in Legal Studies/ PhD Programme in Law**

The School of Law, Governance and Citizenship at Ambedkar University, Delhi offers an interdisciplinary perspective on the fertile and complex interactions of law, culture, politics, and social structures. Rather than treating the law merely as a domain of legal practice or as a body of knowledge reserved for lawyers and legal scholars, at AUD, we understand law to be a contested terrain of practice and knowledge that is best investigated in a creative and collaborative manner. While the study of law has traditionally been the exclusive domain of law schools or law departments within universities, the location of a school for the study of law within a social sciences and humanities university offers a unique opportunity to creatively intervene in the domain of legal education and scholarship. SLGC was started with a clear intention of making an intervention in the domain of interdisciplinary legal studies. We recognised that the past two decades in India had seen a flourishing of extremely productive research about the law that was coming from a specific set of conversations between scholars from the social sciences and humanities and those who came from legal studies. A version of this experiment has already been attempted by us in the Master's program that we have now successfully ran for over five years. The PhD program will consolidate on the contributions made by the school and contribute to the creation of a robust

intellectual community of researchers and scholars working in the field of interdisciplinary Legal Studies and Law.

There is a well-defined contour of knowledge generated by scholars in India and abroad on various dimensions of Legal Studies. There is vast body of literature available for scholars at the doctoral level. However, there is also a need to strengthen the research and literature in many areas of Legal Studies especially in the Indian context. The doctoral programme is designed to motivate scholars to explore some of the existing gaps in the literature and contribute in these areas through their scholarship. Today while law and society research and scholarship is vibrant and vital, the field is also experiencing a period of pluralization and fragmentation. There is no longer a clear center of gravity nor a reasonably clear set of boundaries. This is also there for a time of consolidation and a PhD program allows precisely an opportunity for building the research community that can collectively claim “legal studies” for its own. Over a decade ago a number of individuals and institutions came together to set up the law and social sciences network (LASSNET). Under the auspices of the network there have been major events that have been conducted highlighting the latest research and scholarship at the intersection of law and social sciences. From the number of participants in papers presented it is abundantly clear that there is by now an identifiable community of researchers and scholars working in the field. The scholarship that has emerged over the years also acts as a signpost for younger scholars and students interested in working in the field. If earlier it was possible to identify only a handful of scholars who are doing interdisciplinary legal research in India, it is comforting now to know that the numbers are multiplied many times over. It is however important to note that a significant number of scholars who can be identified as working in this tradition are still scholars who are pursuing their PhD in universities outside of India, and predominantly those who are based on universities in the United States. What this indicates to us is the direct correlation between an intellectual infrastructure that is receptive to interdisciplinary legal studies and the quantity as well as quality of research that it engenders. Given the relatively longer history of the law and society movement within the United States as well as the blurring of boundaries between legal scholarship and social sciences/humanities scholarship, it is not difficult to find hospitable institutions to do innovative research. Consider for instance, Jaya Nanditha Kasibhatla’s dissertation from Duke University “Constituting the state of exception: Law, literature and the state of emergency in India”. This thesis is a fine example of scholarship that would be difficult to pigeonhole into any discipline encompassing as it does the fields of law, literature as well as political science and history. In an earlier era, it would have been a little more difficult to locate the thesis of this nature within any university department in India without having to risk using out on the insights brought by scholars trained in other disciplines. If located in the literature department it would miss out on the insights of legal scholars and political scientists, if located in a law school the thesis would have focus more on the doctrinal aspects of emergency law and lost out on the insights gained by literary analysis. The PhD program at SLGC envisions the space that straddle these multiple words, and to establish the research and academic home that can provide intellectual support two scholars who would otherwise have to locate their research in universities outside of India.

### **Programme details**

The PhD programmes adhere to the rules and regulations of the University Grants Commission, as they are enforced and revised from time to time. The current regulations in force can be found [here](#).

The PhD programme is guided by the research studies ordinance and regulations of the University, which can be found [here](#).

Minimum duration of the programme is **three years** and maximum duration is **six years**. Extensions and relaxations are applicable as per the most recent PhD Regulations.

Each student admitted to the programme must complete 16 credits of coursework and any additional courses as recommended by the UGC from time to time. The coursework must be undertaken by the scholar in the first two semesters of the PhD programme and must be completed by the end of the first year as per AUD guidelines. Candidates already holding MPhil degree and admitted to the PhD programme, or those who have already completed the course work in MPhil and have been permitted to proceed to the PhD in integrated course, may be exempted by the School Research Studies Committee (RSC) from the PhD course work. All other candidates admitted to the PhD programme shall be required to complete the PhD course work prescribed by the School.

Participation in course work presumes a scholar's residence in Delhi region during the officially recognised academic year/sessions and the scholar's regular attendance of classes and related academic activities.

A doctoral supervisor is appointed from the School for each student. Experts and scholars with academic credentials from outside the School or university can be appointed as co-supervisors in case the candidate requires specialised guidance.

A Research Advisory Committee (RAC) is appointed for every candidate, with the supervisor as the convener of the committee. The RAC advises the candidate and monitors her/his/ their progress in the PhD programme.

Every candidate is expected to complete the following milestones of the PhD programme

- Course work
- Presentation and defense of a research synopsis
- Pre-submission presentation
- Pre-submission requirements of conference presentations and publication (if any) as may be required by UGC
- Production of an original thesis
- Viva-voce examination of the PhD thesis

### **Fees: As per University Norms**

### **Venue of Exam & Interview**

**The Venue of the Exam and the Interview will be notified upon scheduling of the exam by the University**

For any Admissions related query, write an email addressed to the Programme Coordinator of the PhD in Legal Studies/ PhD in Law (Email: [psatyogi@aud.ac.in](mailto:psatyogi@aud.ac.in) ).