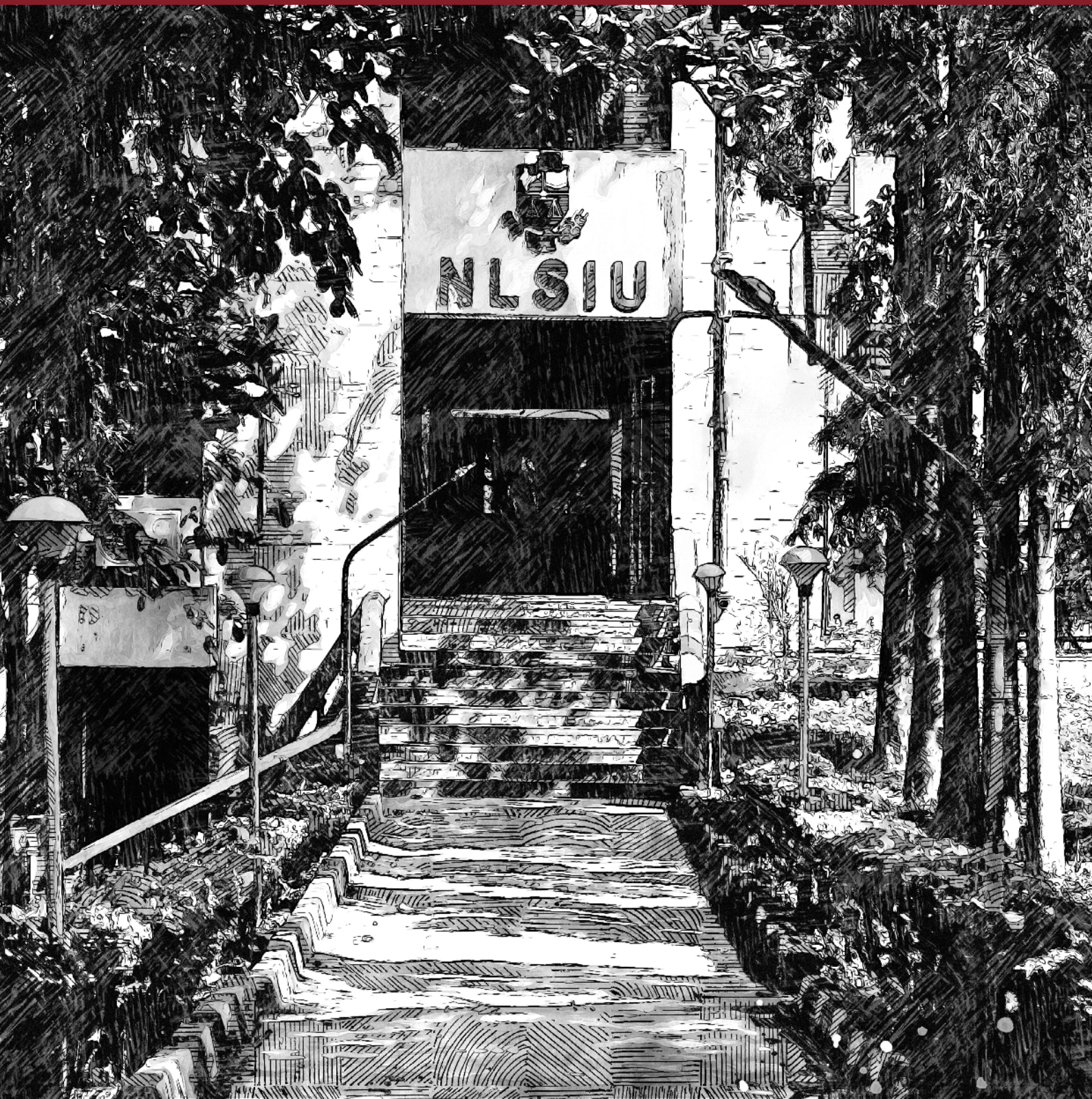


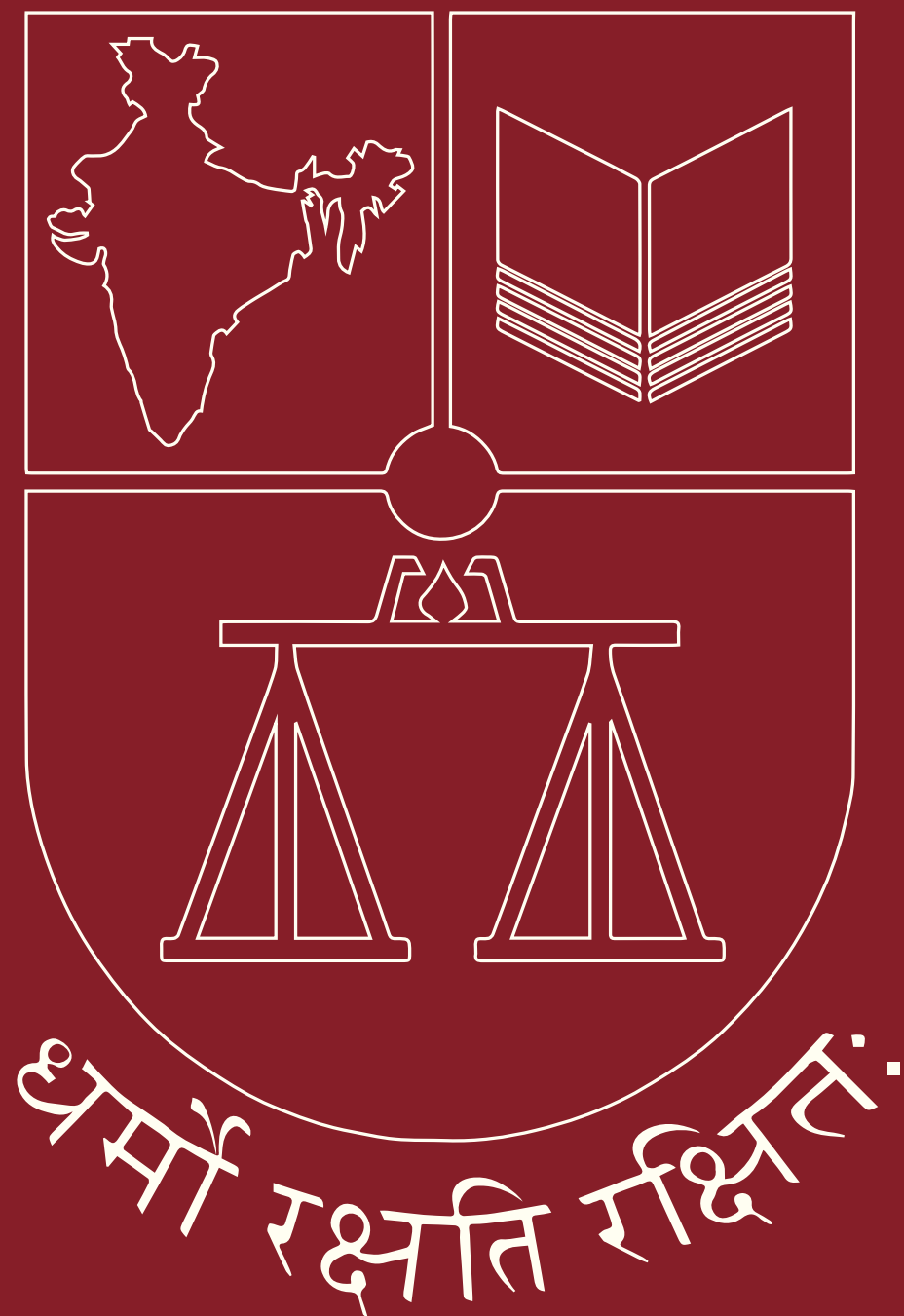


**NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL
OF INDIA UNIVERSITY**

BENGALURU

THE NLS BA (HONS.) PROGRAMME 2025 INAUGURAL BROCHURE





MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

PROF. (DR.) SUDHIR
KRISHNASWAMY



In the last four decades, the National Law School of India University has emerged as one of the most outstanding success stories in Indian higher education. As the higher education ecosystem in India has shifted into a higher gear in the past decade, we need to adapt and respond to these developments.

Spurred by government policy, we have witnessed the most rapid growth of universities and increased student access to high quality education. NLS has responded to these developments by increasing student intake by 120% and faculty by 235% in the last 4 years.

We have witnessed a renewed commitment to the creation of multidisciplinary Humboldtian universities. This has spurred technological and professional universities to expand into new disciplinary domains. In 2014 we offered our first non-law degree: a Master's Programme in Public Policy.

Today we are excited to announce a new Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree to commence from Academic Year 2025-26. This innovative new programme develops organically from our flagship Bachelor of Arts and Law (Honours) programme that we have continually delivered over 35 years. The NLS BA will retain the depth and rigour of our curriculum, the Socratic and experiential pedagogy we've adapted, and the professional orientation to careers that is characteristic of our other programmes.

The NLS BA programme has been developed by our globally qualified, multidisciplinary faculty teams. These faculty have created new approaches to the social sciences and humanities that allow for a renewed ethical understanding of ourselves in the contemporary social and political environment, while responding to the changing demands of the world of work in a world shaped by new technology.

As a leading public university committed to delivering academic and professional excellence to a diverse and inclusive student body, we offer a unique and transformative educational experience. We invite parents and students who are keen to explore and engage with us, to register your interest right away, and apply to our programme later this December.

MESSAGE FROM THE
DEAN-ACADEMICS
& BA (HONS.)
PROGRAMME
COMMITTEE HEAD



DR. SAURABH BHATTACHARJEE,
DEAN-ACADEMICS



DR. ATREYEE MAJUMDER,
BA (HONS.) PROGRAMME
COMMITTEE HEAD



Within the NLS BA Programme Committee, we have debated and scrutinised several different experiments with undergraduate educational models in several parts of India and across the world. We tried to synthesise in this exciting, new experiment, the traditional demands of learning something to the point of excellence, the aspects of modern education and pedagogic theories and practices, while keeping in mind the need for students to know how to use and apply their learning in the world. We have paid attention to and learnt from the successful templates of our law programmes, especially the BA LLB (Hons.) programme at the NLSIU. This new programme has absorbed its pedagogic features of theory and practice bound together, Socratic methods of teaching, small-group discussions, and emphases on experiential learning.

We are mindful of our location in India as a public university. We are mindful of the tremendous responsibility that we carry in offering workforce-relevant education in the social sciences and humanities via the NLS BA (Hons.) programme. We are mindful of the need to carry out experiments in decolonised models of education without taking a nativist perspective. With these anticipations, we are very excited to reach out to educationists, parents, students, and the general public with our new BA (Hons.) programme.





INTRODUCTION



INTRODUCTION

NLSIU has pioneered and developed an integrated 5-year BA LLB degree that transformed Indian legal education. Several NLS graduates have pursued further degrees in humanities, social sciences, and business and eventually then embarked on very successful careers in these fields.

Over the years, alumni and faculty have been keen to build greater rigour and depth in the BA section of the programme and the curriculum review that is currently underway develops the BA programme in a manner befitting one of India's highest ranked Universities. Thus, the NLS, in its recent round of curriculum review, has committed to strengthening the BA LLB (Hons.) through introduction of majors in the social sciences and humanities, while simultaneously introducing a standalone BA (Hons.) programme.

As NLSIU develops into a multi-disciplinary university, in line with national and state education policies, the BA programme is an organic development that builds on existing faculty expertise that can be delivered without having to develop an entirely new faculty. With the introduction of majors and minors in the BA LLB (Hons.) programme, our faculty will diversify immensely over the next few years. This will enable us to offer a BA programme successfully. We wish to take steps in this direction, with the hope, faculty and cohorts of students in diverse degree programmes will give and take from each other's learnings and values. We hope that this will add meaningfully to holistic learning at the NLS and enrich all its programmes.

PEDAGOGY

The NLS BA (Hons.) programme is built around the primary concerns of balance between lecture and small-group discussion sections, a multiplicity of pedagogies, experiential learning, internships and externships, as also close attention to skill-building that is relevant to the changing demands of the worlds of work.

The NLS BA offers a **three-year programme**, with an additional **fourth year** option (on selection basis) for a rigorous year of dissertation and research assistance for those who aspire to take the research pathway. Moreover, this BA (Hons.) programme has been developed employing NLS's unique pedagogical philosophy that combines a rigorous academic programme with experiential learning and a professional orientation. This undergraduate BA degree will also be a pathway to the LLB and MPP programme and is fully integrated with the various pedagogic and structural changes proposed by the BA LLB (Hons.) Curriculum Review Committee. The NLS BA Curriculum Proposal has been extensively discussed with a diverse cohort of stakeholders – academics and practitioners who teach, research, and work in professions that derive expertise from the social sciences and humanities.

OUR FACULTY

The NLS BA (Hons.) programme will allow students to benefit from NLSIU's decades-long experience in offering a world class learning environment. The faculty comprises a vibrant group of scholars in the law, social sciences, and public policy alongside leading practitioners who offer a range of elective courses.

[READ MORE ABOUT THE FACULTY HERE](#)

STRUCTURE OF THE NLS BA PROGRAMME



STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

The three-year BA (Hons.) programme at NLSIU will have a common core [shared with the BA LLB (Hons.) programme], majors and minors, a language training component, an internship component, and a basket of practice courses. This programme will offer and combine training in social sciences, humanities, and career-oriented courses in order to yield a student body that is ready for the changing character of the workforce in our times.

For example, a literature student could be equipped with planned career-training in media and communications, data analytics, design thinking, or creative writing. A sociology major student may be equipped with training in statistical methods, machine learning, qualitative research, film and media. This combination of deep learning in a core discipline along with training in workforce-facing skill sets, will constitute the unique offering of the NLS BA (Hons.) programme.

The programme will deliver a **148-credit BA (Hons.) degree in three years**, with some students (on the basis of their performance in the first three years) being invited to apply for an additional research-track fourth year for 24 extra credits. The four-year-track students will graduate with a **BA (Hons. with Research)** degree.

Typically, students will take courses worth 16 credits per trimester, and thus, complete 144 credits by the end of nine trimesters alongside 4 credits worth of internships. All core courses will be offered at a default calculation of 4 credits, but the elective offerings will adapt to the variable credit model that the university is moving towards. The Academic Review Committee, at its discretion, will assign variable credits (with a minimum of 2, and a maximum of 4) to electives, though the core courses will remain pegged at 4 credits all across.

- ♦ Students will be admitted through the NLSAT-BA test. Details of the test are provided in our Admission Notification.
- ♦ Students in the first year will take **six Common Core** courses.
- ♦ They will declare their first major at entry into the programme. The second major or the minor will be declared after the third trimester, at the end of the first year.
- ♦ Students in the third year, complete all the remaining requirements of their chosen majors and minors and take **three practice courses**.
- ♦ Dissertation students (selected on the basis of academic performance in the three years) will conduct original research and write a 20,000-word dissertation in the fourth year for 12 credits. They must submit their dissertations at the end of the fourth year and be examined on it successfully. The dissertation may draw from the topics of majors and minors that they have elected, and will be supervised by relevant faculty with expertise in these areas.

ADMISSION PROCESS

Admission to the 3-Year BA (Hons.) programme will be through a national level entrance examination process - the National Law School Admission Test (NLSAT-BA). 60 students shall be admitted to the BA (Hons.) programme in the Academic Year 2025-2026.

Details of the admission process along with the reservation policy are available in the Admission Notification of the BA (Hons.) Programme on the NLS website.

FEATURES OF THE PROGRAMME



A

COMMON CORE

In pursuit of the goal of multidisciplinary and the university's growing strength in faculty for humanities and the social sciences, the students will begin with a Common Core curriculum of six courses to be completed over the three terms of the first year. The aim of these courses is fundamentally to shape a young mind to look at the world around them, near and far, with wonder, curiosity, appreciation, and critique. These courses are organized around concerns in the world and the human condition at large rather than disciplinary silos.

There are six compulsory courses in the Common Core. These are **organized around six themes: narrative, numbers, society, power, history, and economy**. Each of these courses will interrogate a common set of themes in different ways. These themes would include relations, power hierarchies, inequities, and institutions.

The Common Core curriculum aims to provide students who join the programme with different high school specialisations, with a broad-based foundation of knowledge, skills and values that are essential for their intellectual and professional development. The common core curriculum (detailed description below) shall be identified with the aim of exposing students to diverse perspectives and disciplines, and enhancing their critical thinking, creativity and ability to carry out research without being confined to rigid disciplinary boundaries. The common core curriculum shall be completed in the first year of the BA programme so that it can serve as a foundation for the other courses of the programme. This will also influence student decisions on their choices of second majors and minors. The six Common Core courses will be taught to the BA (Hons.) students together with the BA LLB (Hons.) first year students, thus helping healthy exchange and collaboration among the students of law and those of humanities and social sciences.

Besides the academic courses, there will be another course titled **Professional Life** for incoming undergraduate students. This course will be offered in the first term of the first year, as a pass/fail course, aimed at equipping students with a range of functional competencies and value orientation, geared towards the highest standards of professional life. This will include, among other things, orientations to inter-personal conduct and conflict resolution in a diverse society, tolerance and coexistence, navigating academic study at the university, career pathways, professional communication and conduct, as also ethical standards, effective public speaking, leadership and teamwork, time management, mental health and well-being, learning and growth mindsets.

Credit Count: 6*4= 24 credits

MAJORS AND MINORS

Every student in the NLS BA (Hons.) programme will have the option of electing a major-minor combination, or a double major. Each student will provide a ranked list of first major choices at the time of applying to the programme. Each student will, thereafter, opt for a minor or second major at the end of the first year.

A system of training in majors will allow students to focus and streamline their coursework, gain in-depth knowledge, and develop expertise in a specific subject area. This specialization can provide a competitive advantage when pursuing careers or further studies in that field. Additionally, for students interested in pursuing postgraduate degrees, having a major in a specific field will be advantageous. BA LLB (Hons.) students will also opt for a major and complete its requirements alongside their legal studies.

Combination of *majors and minors* will provide students with the opportunity to explore multiple disciplines and broaden their academic horizons, while focusing deeply on one or two fields. Minors will allow students to pursue secondary interests alongside their primary major, creating a well-rounded educational experience. To begin with, the majors and minors will be in the same areas/disciplines that are currently taught within the BA LLB (Hons.) programme; we will expand these areas and disciplines as our faculty strength and diversity enhances over the years. These disciplines are 1) History, 2) Sociology & Anthropology, 3) Politics, 4) Economics. Over time, we hope to introduce Philosophy, Literature, Environment Studies, Data Analytics as majors and minors.

Each Major will be delivered through 6 Core Courses and 4 Electives and the same discipline will be delivered as a Minor through 4 Core Courses and 2 Electives.

B

The major in the BA Programme will consist of 10 courses – 6 core courses of 4 credits each and a 16 credits worth of electives, in the variable credit system model, summing up to a total of 40 credits. These electives will be earmarked by the Major faculty as being related to the subject area of the Major. Students will declare a first major at the point of entry into the programme. Students who choose to do a double major instead of a major-minor combination, will have 40 more credits to complete in the double major track before they graduate. Second majors will be declared at the end of the first year.

- i. History
- ii. Sociology & Anthropology
- iii. Economics
- iv. Politics

Credit count towards completion of the major:

6 Major Core Courses + 16 credits worth of electives = 40 credits ((6*4)+16)

C

MINORS

Any of the majors can also be taken as a minor. A minor will consist of 6 courses – at minimum, 4 core courses of 4 credits each and 8 credits worth of electives, under the variable credit model. Again, the relevant faculty cluster will suggest the particular combinations of core and elective courses for each minor. Minors must be declared by the end of first year. The relevant faculty cluster will determine which of its basket of core courses will serve as a core course for those students taking it as part of the minor.

Credit count towards completion of the minor:

4 core courses + 8 credits worth of electives = 24 credits ((4*4)+8)

D

OPEN ELECTIVES

Across the three years of the programme, students who are on the major-minor track, will have to take **36 credits worth of open electives** (under the variable credit model), which may not have anything to do with the focal areas of their training. The students who are on the double major track will have to take **20 credits worth of open electives**. Elective slots could also stand in for the option of a 4-credit Advanced Language course.



E

PRACTICE COURSES

In the NLS BA (Hons.) programme, we have introduced compulsory practice courses to train students in workforce-facing skill-sets and open up career pathways as they complete the degree. One of the strengths of NLSIU in over three decades of its existence has been the employability of its graduates. The focus in the University’s pedagogy and curriculum on experiential learning and problem-solving skills, internships and field projects have enabled students to develop and demonstrate key skills and competencies that are valued by employers. The BA (Hons.) programme will build on these pedagogical strengths and be responsive and adaptive to the changing demands and expectations of the stakeholders, such as employers, industry partners, accreditation bodies and alumni. We will also actively provide institutional preference for our top-performing students in the BA (Hons.) programme to enter our 3-Year LLB (Hons.) programme and our Public Policy programme (MPP). The Practice courses will be taught by practitioners from the industrial world, government, and the various service professions.

In lieu of three open electives, every student in the BA (Hons.) programme must take **three Practice Courses** towards completion of the degree requirements. These will be application and skill-oriented courses carrying 4 credits each. The aim is to train students to use their education and complement it with workforce-facing skills. Practice courses will be taught by industry experts and organized around themes such as:

- 1. AI & Machine Learning
- 2. Film-making
- 3. Scriptwriting
- 4. Consulting
- 5. User Experience Research
- 6. Digital Journalism
- 7. Creative Writing
- 8. Entrepreneurship
- 9. Policy Advocacy and Analysis

Credit count for 3 courses: 3*4= 12 credits

F

LANGUAGES

Social sciences and humanities education, in its emphasis on myriad formats of reason and expression, is incomplete without language training. Although Indian higher education has become, to a great extent, an English language mediated system, we offer the opportunity in the BA programme, for students to take an Indian language as part of their humanistic and holistic training. A whole gamut of occupations like regional media and film, translation, journalism, anthropology, qualitative research will open to students who can show advanced competence in more than one language. We are aware that language-teaching capacities are not well-enmeshed within the Indian higher education system. We will make the greatest effort to enhance our language-teaching capacity by tying up with premier language institutes and university language faculties in Bangalore and the region.

The NLS BA Programme will offer Indian language training, beginning with Kannada and Hindi. Students must opt for a language and go through the first two levels of language training - **Beginner and Intermediate (for 4 credits each)**. Students must pass the Intermediate level before graduating, having taken both levels in sequence. These courses will be taught on a **pass/fail/honours basis**. The top 25 percent of students in the class will carry honours grades from these courses and others will get a pass/fail grade. The Advanced levels of language training will be available on an optional basis in lieu of an elective of 4 credits. The Advanced level will be available to students only after they have completed (with at least pass grades) the Beginner and Intermediate levels. Students must obtain a pass grade at the Intermediate level before they graduate from the programme.

Language (Beginner) - 4 credits
Language (Intermediate) - 4 credits
Language (Advanced- optional in lieu of elective slots) - 4 credits

G

INTERNSHIP

Students are required to complete **at least one internship of a duration of at least one month in every year of the programme**. They will earn **4 credits** through the completion of this task at the end of the third year. Internships will be assessed through a system of internal and external completion reports.

H

FOURTH YEAR

In the **fourth year**, students (invited to the fourth year on the basis of their performance in the first three years) will write a 20,000-word dissertation based on original research for 16 credits and earn another 8 credits as a TA or an RA assigned to a faculty member or a research centre at the NLS. They are also welcome to take courses that aid in dissertation-writing for extra credit or on audit basis over and above this requirement. The four-year-track students will graduate with a **BA (Hons. with Research) degree**.

CREDIT STRUCTURE

Credit count to graduate from the NLS BA programme with honours on the major-minor track (comprising 24 credits of the 6 Common Core courses; 10 Major courses; 6 Minor courses; 3 Practice courses, 36 credits of Open Electives, 8 credits of Language, 4 credits of Internships): **148**

Credit count to graduate from the programme with honours on the double major track (comprising 24 credits of the 6 Common Core courses; 10 Major courses; 10 second major courses; 3 Practice courses, 20 credits of Open Electives, 8 credits of Language, 4 credits of Internships): **148**

Credit count for those who take a fourth year: **172**



PROGRAMME
MAP

PROGRAMME MAP

YEAR	TRIMESTER	COURSES
I	1	Common Core I Common Core II Common Core III Language (Beginner) Orientation to Professional Life
	2	Common Core IV Common Core V Major Core I Major Core II
	3	Common Core VI Major Core III Major Elective I Major Elective II
II	1	Major Core IV Major Core V Minor Core I/ Double Major Core I Language (Intermediate)
	2	Major Core VI Minor Core II/ Double Major Core II Minor Core III/ Double Major Core III Practice Course I
	3	Major Elective III Major Elective IV Minor Elective I/Double Major Elective I Minor Elective II/Double Major Elective II
III	1	Practice Course 2 Elective /Double Major Core IV Elective /Double Major Core V Elective /Double Major Core VI
	2	Elective/ Minor Elective III Elective /Double Major Elective III Elective /Double Major Elective IV Elective
	3	Practice Course 3 Elective Elective/Language (Advanced) Elective

DISCIPLINES

Difficulty Levels

- ◆ Level 100 indicates that these are basic, introductory courses. All Common Core courses are set at difficulty level 100.
- ◆ Level 200 courses are structured as broad-based, survey courses.
- ◆ Most Major/Minor core courses are set at difficulty level 200, with a few courses set at level 100.
- ◆ Level 300 indicates the study of a niche area within the discipline. All electives, with the exception of a few, are set at difficulty level 300.



HISTORY

The B.A. History Curriculum at the National Law School of India University is designed to help undergraduates learn to think expansively, as they develop research skills and expertise in written, oral, and digital communication. History Majors allows undergraduates to understand the everyday realities by situating these in a long-term perspective, thereby building their ability to think analytically about the present. The programme sharpens problem solving skills apart from making opportunities for in-depth learning about changes that have shaped human history, from the earliest phase to the present day. We expect our students to grow as informed citizens in a globalizing world. The programme offers a thorough training in methodologies of historical research, legal history, urban history, science & technology studies, history of medicine, labor histories, intellectual history, dalit history, and public history & museum studies with a focus on building transferable skills that will expose undergraduates to employment opportunities. The knowledge and skills gained in the programme will help undergraduates excel in a vast array of fields, such as, law and education, public policy and social work, archives management and curatorship, and digital communications and journalism. History Majors is a gateway to a wider world of leadership, advocacy, and governance.

The final list of courses along with electives will be released on the NLS website.

SOCIOLOGY
&
ANTHROPOLOGY



The Sociology and Anthropology major/minor track provides a concentration of core courses that not only teach breadth at the intersection of sociology and social anthropology, but looks to make this training traverse the classical tropes of the disciplines as well as contemporary themes and issues. We cover themes such as capitalisms, religion, caste, gender, globalisation. This major is designed for students who wish to pursue the disciplines for academic training, as also persons who wish to go into various professions such as public policy, rights advocacy, journalism, media and creative industries, development practice, and corporate research. This major/minor track will deliver itself through a combination of historical and contemporary perspectives in treatment of the themes that are part of the core curriculum. Its focus on training both in quantitative and qualitative methods is its core strength.

The final list of courses along with electives will be released on the NLS website.

ECONOMICS



The Economics major and minor courses are designed to provide a strong foundation in the discipline and inculcate rational thinking in making choices. We emphasise principles of individual choice, economic aspects of the development process, historical development of economic systems, and role of government in the economy. The majors enable a quantitative approach towards a comprehensive understanding of the behaviour of micro units and the economy as a whole.

The major core is designed for students to pursue academia, research, public policy and data analytics. The electives proposed are designed to allow for selection of a niche domain (including applied economics such as labour and development economics and international trade and finance) within the discipline. These courses will also cover the breadth of some contemporary fields that deviate from the rational economic principles in behaviour economics, economic geography, natural resources and climate change, media, and health. The blend of rational perspective and its deviations and applications to various fields is the strength of the majors/minors track.

The final list of courses along with electives will be released on the NLS website.

POLITICS



The Politics major/minor track offers a core curriculum that provides students with a deep understanding of political theory, institutions, and practices across diverse contexts. The aim is to equip students to independently comprehend, interpret, explain and evaluate complex political phenomena in an imaginative, fair and reasoned manner. With a strong emphasis on rigorously taught theoretical foundations, the core courses introduce students to a broad spectrum of political concepts and debates, ranging from classical political thought to contemporary issues in diverse fields, including, but not limited to, the nature of the modern state, capitalism, development, identity politics, state politics, colonialism, comparative politics and international relations. The programme emphasizes methodological diversity in the study of politics, equipping students with relevant approaches. The major is designed for students interested in pursuing academic careers in political science and related disciplines, as well as those seeking career opportunities in public policy, journalism, political consulting, civil services, diplomacy, and related fields.

The Politics major/minor will offer the following core courses. Though there is no specific core or elective course on methods, each of the 6 core courses will have specific modules within the course syllabi on the specific methodology that each of these will follow.

The final list of courses along with electives will be released on the NLS website.

FEE STRUCTURE (ACADEMIC YEAR 2025–26)

Admission fee (one-time fee): Rs. 13,000/-
Tuition and facilities fee: Rs. 2,96,000/- per annum
Off-campus housing fee (optional): Rs. 1,23,500/- per annum
Total fee: Rs. 4,32,500/-

One Time Refundable Deposit

Refundable deposits for SC/ST category students: Rs. 17,500/-
Refundable deposits for other students: Rs. 22,000/-

The total amount payable by SC/ST category students is **Rs. 4,50,000/-**
The total amount payable by other students is **Rs. 4,54,500/-**

*(Fees are subject to necessary approvals and further revision)



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION



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AL LAW SCHOOL OF KANNADA UNIVERSITY, BANGALORE

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