THE WEST BENGAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES, KOLKATA

Master of Law (LL.M.) - Regulations

(Revised vide 47th Academic Council Meeting dated 25.08.2023)

2013

1. Degrees Offered

University offers full-time LL.M. Degree with specialization in following five streams:

(a) Corporate and Commercial Law;

(b) International and Comparative Law;

(c) Criminal and Security Law;

(d) Law & Technology[i];

(e) Intellectual Property Law[ii].

2. Administration of LL.M.

2.1 There shall be constituted a Centre of Post-Graduate Legal Studies (CPGLS) and a Post Graduate Curriculum Committee (PGCC)

2.2 The Vice-Chancellor in coordination with CPGLS and PGCC is responsible for the general supervision of LL.M. Degree at the University. The CPGLS and PGCC shall perform the functions in accordance with this Regulation.

2.3 The CPGLS would consist of minimum 10 faculty members and such other staff as may be required for the administration of LL.M. A minimum of 8 faculty members of CPGLS would be at the level of Professor/Associate Professor. The members of the CPGLS are nominated by the Vice-Chancellor.

2.4 The CPGLS is responsible for:

(a) recommending admission (as per Regulation 3), reviewing the students' progress and arranging for the supervision and examination of the student.

(b) reviewing and monitoring the conduct of the LL.M. examination and dissertation.

(c) ensuring compliance with the LL.M. Regulations.

(d) disclosing the information required under the UGC Guidelines for introduction of One Year LL.M. Degree Programme, 2012.

2.5 The PGCC shall consist of such number of Professors and Associate Professors forming part of CPGLS as may be required. The members of the PGCC are nominated by the Vice-Chancellor.

2.6 The PGCC is responsible for formulating, reviewing and revising the LL.M. curriculum on a regular basis.

3. Admission

3.1 The requirements for admission to LL.M. program are as follows:

a) The candidate must have completed a bachelor's degree in Law (LL.B.) with a percentage of at least 55 or an equivalent cumulative grade point average from any Indian University recognised by UGC or any equivalent degree offered by a foreign University;

Explanation: In case of degree by foreign University, the factor of equivalence would be decided by the CPGLS.

b) The candidate must have been allotted with a seat through the All India Admission Test for LL.M.

3.2 Provisional admission may be offered, subject to the approval of CPGLS, for an applicant, whose result is due, to undertake the program provided the result / provisional degree certificate is submitted before the beginning of the first semester examination.

In case, the provisionally admitted candidate fails to submit the result / provisional degree certificate before the beginning of the first semester examination, the provisional admission of the candidate shall stand cancelled.

4. Duration of the Course

4.1 University offers a full-time one-year LL.M. program spread over two semesters.

4.2 Students are allowed a maximum of two years from the date of admission to complete the requirements of the degree.

5. The Course Details

5.1 Students in each stream of specialization are required to pass nine papers and a dissertation.

5.2 Students are required to pass the following compulsory papers of three credits each as compulsory for all the five streams:, i.e. (a) Corporate and Commercial Law, (b) International and Comparative Law, (c) Criminal and Security Law, (d) Law & Technology [iii](e) Intellectual Property Law [iv]

(i) Research Methods and Legal Writing
(ii) Comparative Public Law/Systems of Governance
(iii) Law and Justice in a Globalizing World

5.3 In the first semester, each student of the concerned stream will have to study all the compulsory papers as mentioned under 5.2 and two stream-specific compulsory papers.

In the second semester, each student of the concerned stream will have to study two stream-specific compulsory papers and two optional papers from the range of papers on offer[v].

Note: The detailed structure of papers to be taught in each semester is given in schedule I.

6. Project Work and Examination

6.1 Student shall be allowed to take end-semester examination in a paper only if the minimum attendance requirement fixed by the University is fulfilled

** 6.1.A The minimum attendance requirement for the LL.M students shall be 70% physical attendance per subject. In case of any shortage of attendance below the threshold limit of 70%, the concerned student will be debarred from appearing in the end semester examination.

The debarred students shall not be allowed to take end semester examination in the same academic year. All debarred students (either due to shortage of attendance or due to any academic misconduct) are allowed to take the examination of the debarred subject in the next academic year only.

Once a student writes a repeat examination in a subject, due to failure in the end semester examination or any other reason, an annotation of “R” is made besides the concerned subject on the transcript or marks statement of the concerned student.

6.1.1. Any student so debarred under 6.1.A would be eligible to appear for the examination in that paper only in subsequent academic year after duly attending the course.

* 6.2 Each paper is assessed based on the following components and marks:

Sl. No.	Name of the Component	Marks Allocated
1	Internal assessment (Test)	20
2	Project	20
3	Presentation	10
4	End Semester Examination	50
	TOTAL	**100**

However, the concerned course teacher shall have the discretion to change the components and marks with prior approval of the Vice Chancellor.

6.3 A student must secure a minimum of fifty percent marks in each paper and dissertation in order to fulfil the requirements of the Degree.

6.3.1. A student failing to conform to the above requirement in any of the papers shall appear in the repeat examination to be held only after the publication of result of the Winter Semester examination and as per the convenience of the University[vi].

* Amended vide 23rd Academic Council meeting dated 21 June 2014

** Amended vide 32nd Academic Council meeting dated 10 May 2018

6.4 Grading system[vii]

Percentage of Marks	Grade	Grade Value
85 and above	O (Outstanding)	10
75 and above but below 85	A+ (Excellent)	9
70 and above but below 75	A (Very Good)	8
65 and above but below 70	B+ (Good)	7
60 and above but below 65	B (Above Average)	6
55 and above but below 60	C (Average)	5
50 and above but below 55	D (Pass)	4
Below 50	F (Fail)	0

Example of computation of SGPA on10 point scale:

Course	Credit	Letter Grade	Grade Point	Credit Point
Course 1	3	A	8	3x8 = 24
Course 2	4	B+	7	4x7 = 28
Course 3	3	B	6	3x6 = 18
Course 4	4	B	6	4x6 = 24
Total	**14**			**94**

SGPA = 94/14 = 6.71

Example of computation of CGPA = $\frac{\text{Total SGPA}}{\text{Total credits}}$

A student obtaining Grade F in any subject shall be considered to have failed that subject and will be required to reappear in the Repeat Examination for that subject and obtain the pass marks in that examination. **Any student who seeks to write the repeat examination for any subject in the same academic year shall have to repeat internal components only when he/she has obtained less than 50% of the total marks allotted for that component. Provided however that where class-participation marks were one of the internal components, the original marks for class-participation shall always be retained.**[viii]

7. Dissertation

7.1 Student is required to submit a dissertation containing minimum of 20,000 words **(main text)** in the partial fulfilment of the Degree[ix].

7.2 Dissertation carries three credits and a total of 200 marks, which includes the following components and marks[x].

Sl. No.	Components	Marks
1	Synopsis	25
2	Synopsis Presentation	25
3	Pre-submission Presentation and Viva	50
4	Thesis	100
Sl. No.	**Components**	**Evaluator**
1	Synopsis	Supervisor
2	Synopsis Presentation	Average of the Presentation Board.
3	Pre-submission Presentation and Viva	Average of Supervisor and External Examiner.
4	Thesis	Average of marks awarded by Supervisor and External Examiner.

7.3 Student is required to finalize the dissertation topic according to notification of the Controller of Examinations (CoE). The CPGLS will allot the Supervisor

and approve the tentative topic submitted with a synopsis (minimum 5000 words) for evaluation.

7.4 An initial presentation of the topic shall be made before the respective Presentation Board after the submission of the synopsis as per dates notified by the CoE, with the approval of the Vice Chancellor[xi].

7.5 After the successful completion of initial presentation, a guide shall be assigned to the student by the CPGLS based on the feasibility and subject-matter expertise of the concerned faculty.

7.6 Each guide should not have more than 5 candidates.

7.7 After the completion of writing dissertation to the satisfaction of the guide, student is required to make a Pre-Submission Presentation before the respective Presentation Board as per dates notified by CoE with the approval of the Vice Chancellor[xii].

7.8 Final written-submission of Dissertation done according to notification by the University.

Three hard copies of the Dissertation must be submitted along with a softcopy in pdf format to the Office of the Controller of Examinations.[xiii]

7.9 Thesis shall be assessed by the Supervisor and an external examiner selected by the CPGLS.

* 7.10 In case the assessment of thesis component as mentioned in 7.9 by the internal and external examiners varies by more than 15% (fifteen percent), the assessment of thesis shall be referred to the third examiner, and the third examiner will invariably be an external examiner, as decided by the Chairman of the CPGLS for assessment.

The average of two nearest marks given by examiners shall be the final marks for determination of result.

* Amended vide 24th Academic Council meeting dated 21 January 2015

Note: A student failing to conform to any requirement mentioned above has to redo the entire dissertation by following the norms in the next academic year.

If a student fails to submit the dissertation or fails to secure pass mark in the dissertation, 'R" would be marked besides dissertation in the Transcript of the concerned student.

7.11 Plagiarism and Allied Academic Misconduct[xiv]

*Cautionary statement***:** Students are expected to exercise the greatest degree of caution in their conduct, in protecting their work and in ensuring that nobody has any opportunity to use it in an unauthorised manner.

'Academic Misconduct' includes, but is not limited to:

a) Plagiarism: Failure to cite or otherwise acknowledge in any paper, exercise, tutorial, essay or project submitted for credit, arguments, or phrases gained from another source including but not limited to published text or another person's work.

b) Cheating**/** Use of Unfair Means: Violating any specific instruction given by the course instructor or unauthorized use of information during any evaluated assignment or exercise.

Illustration:

Any discussion of any assignment or tutorial essay in which the whole or part of the class is given the same question but students are expected to come up with an answer individually and not through discussion, in contravention of the teachers' instruction, shall be considered as a form of cheating.

c) Multiple Submissions: The submission of one piece of work in more than one offering or in any two exercises for credit.

Explanation:

If a student makes substantial addition to any work previously submitted for credit, it shall not amount to multiple submissions.

d) Preparation by Another: The submission of work, a substantial part of which has been prepared by another, as one's own.

Explanation:

If a student got a friend to proofread his/her paper and point out prominent grammatical/ typographic errors, this would not count as substantial help. However if the friend rewrote a significant part of the paper, this would count as substantial help.

Punishment

Category I:

7.11.1. Forms of Academic Misconduct punishable under this category:

a) Plagiarism (less than 20% of the total work plagiarised or less than 15% of total work plagiarised from a single source).

7.11.2. Forms of Academic Misconduct under Category I would be punishable, for a first offence, by: Re-doing the assignment under question or deduction of such marks as may be considered appropriate by the Centre of Post Graduate Legal Studies (CPGLS).

Explanation:

The punishment provided under Category I would apply to repeat of a Category III offence, as though such second offence was the first offence in Category I

Category II:

7.11.3. Forms of Academic Misconduct punishable under this category are:

a) Cheating,

b) Multiple Submissions,

c) Preparation by another, and
d) Plagiarism (20% or more of total work plagiarised OR 15% or more of total work plagiarised from a single source).

Forms of Academic Misconduct punishable under Category II would be punishable by:

a) For the first offence since the date of admission, automatic failure in the subject under question;

Explanation: In case, a student is deemed to have failed in a subject in pursuance of this clause, he/she shall be allowed to write the Repeat Examination for that subject conducted in the same year and he/she must repeat all the components of evaluation for that subject, except class participation.

b) For the second offence since the date of admission, automatic failure in the subject under question. In this case the concerned student shall be allowed to repeat the subject under question only in the next academic year;
c) For the third offence since the date of admission, automatic failure in the subject under question and repetition of the year. The concerned student shall not be promoted to next semester even if he/she has passed the requisite number of courses;
d) For the fourth offence since the date of admission, automatic failure in the subject under question and repetition of year, along with a note in the student's transcript indicating that he was found guilty of using unfair means.
e) For the fifth offence since the date of admission, rustication.

Category III:

7.11.4.Forms of Academic Misconduct punishable under this category are:

a) Any violation of Instructions that does not constitute an offence under Categories I and II.

7.11.5. Forms of Academic Misconduct under Category III would be punishable by: A fine of Rs. 5,000/- (This amount may be reduced by the Vice-Chancellor if a student can demonstrate through copies of his/ her parents' Income Tax returns or salary/ pension slips that the amount would be an undue hardship for the family).

7.11.6 Where two or more projects submitted for a course are found to have been plagiarised from each other, all the concerned students would be deemed to be guilty of plagiarism under this Part.

7.12 Use of unfair means during the end-semester examination-[xv]

Unfair means can be understood as any act committed by student/s whereby s/he may obtain advantage which is otherwise not allowed in an examination.

7.12.1 Extent of unfair means: Unfair means in the course of an examination includes, but is not limited to:

a) carrying into an exam hall any unauthorized material such as manuscripts, papers and/or any electronic device or mobile phone that facilitates storage and communication of information;
   Any student found in the possession of such material shall be presumed to have carried it in deliberately;
b) copying from any other person in the examination hall;
c) writing on any part of the body / furniture / wall/question paper;
d) violating any specific instruction given by the course instructor or unauthorized use of information in the examination;
e) any threat / use of abusive language in exam or in the answer sheets;
f) smuggling an answer book / additional answer book into or out of the Examination Hall;
g) disclosure of identity in the answer sheet in any form;
h) inserting / substituting or removing any page from the answer book / additional answer book;
i) impersonation in exam including interchanging of Roll Numbers and/or Answer Sheets;
j) aiding or assisting another candidate to adopt any of the above.

7.12.2 Punishment for using unfair means:

a) Automatic failure in the examination for the subject under question for the first offence;
b) Repetition of the year along with a note in the student's marks sheet indicating that s/he was found guilty of using unfair means for the second offence;
c) Rustication for the third offence.

Note: Each instance of use of unfair means is regarded as a separate offence.

Therefore a student found committing three different instances of use of unfair means in one semester would be committing three separate offences.

7.12.3 Procedure to be adopted in case of matters related to unfair means: Any incident of adoption of unfair means in examination shall be reported in writing by the faculty member to the CoE through the prescribed format immediately after the examination is over. The report shall be forwarded to the Centre of Post Graduate Legal Studies (CPGLS) within seven days from the date of filing. The student shall be asked to explain his/her conduct before the decision is taken.

8. After the publication of the Final Result, LLM students may apply for consultation of any subject by applying to the course teacher, within the date notified by CoE.

9. Any issue not covered by the foregoing rules, shall be governed by the decision of the Vice-Chancellor.

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[i] Added vide 41st Academic Council Meeting dated 27 July 2021
[ii] Added vide 42nd Academic Council Meeting dated 31 May 2022
[iii] Addition vide 41st Academic Council meeting dated 27 July, 2021
[iv] Addition vide 42nd Academic Council meeting dated 31 May, 2022
[v] Addition vide 37th Academic Council meeting dated 15 February 2020
[vi] Addition vide 37th Academic Council meeting dated 15 February 2020
[vii] Amended vide 46th Academic Council Meeting dated 05 May 2023
[viii] Amended vide 46th Academic Council Meeting dated 05 May 2023
[ix] Amended vide 43rd Academic Council Meeting dated 28 June 2022
[x] Amended vide 43rd Academic Council Meeting dated 28 June 2022
[xi] Amended vide 43rd Academic Council Meeting dated 28 June 2022
[xii] Amended vide 43rd Academic Council Meeting dated 28 June 2022
[xiii] Amended vide 37th Academic Council meeting dated 15 February 2020
[xiv] Addition vide 37th Academic Council meeting dated 15 February 2020
[xv] Addition vide 37th Academic Council meeting dated 15 February 2020