



Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai

Post Doctoral Degree Regulations- 2026

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The Doctor of Science (D.Sc.), Doctor of Literature (D.Litt.), and Post-Doctoral Degree in Law (LL.D.) are the highest academic degrees awarded by Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai, in recognition of exceptional, substantial, original, and significant scholarly contributions. The D.Sc. degree shall be awarded in the fields of Forensic Science or Law and Technology, while the LL.D. and D.Litt. degrees may encompass any area of law.

Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai, is a premier institution of legal education and research established under the Maharashtra National Law University Act, 2014 (Act No. VI of 2014). The University is committed to fostering a sense of responsibility among students and research scholars to serve the nation through excellence in legal education, advocacy, legal services, and law reform.

The Post-Doctoral Degree Regulations, 2026, are framed to govern the admission process, standards of research, submission and presentation of the thesis, award of degrees, and all other matters incidental to the programme.

1. Short Title of the Regulation

These regulations may be called 'Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai Post-Doctoral Degree Regulations- 2026

2. Definitions

Maharashtra National Law University Act, 2014 (Act No VI of 2014) and Ph.D. Regulation 2023 of MNLU shall provide general interpretation guideline for the sake of interpretation and reference in case of any difficulty.

3. Administration

The Head/Convenor of the Ph.D. Programme of the University shall be the coordinator of these Post-Doctoral Degree programmes or any other Professor appointed/nominated by the Vice-Chancellor from time to time.

4. Intake of the Programme

Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai shall determine the number of seats available for admission to the Post-Doctoral Degree programmes in the respective areas or specializations. The approved intake shall be notified by the University at the time of issuing the admission notification.

5. Notification of seats

Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai shall notify the number of available

research seats along with the admission details through the University website.

Eligibility

Following are the eligibility criteria for the Post-Doctoral Degree Programme

A candidate shall have undertaken outstanding research in the relevant discipline and shall possess the minimum qualifications prescribed for admission, as specified below.

1. For LL.D.

- I. The candidate must have been awarded a Ph.D. in Law by a recognized Indian or foreign university at least five years prior to the date of application and must have published a minimum of five (05) research papers in reputed peer-reviewed or refereed journals.

OR

- II. Professionals, Judges, or Government officials holding a Ph.D. degree with a minimum of five years of professional experience and at least five (05) research papers published in reputed peer-reviewed or refereed journals.

2. For D.Sc. and D.Litt.

- I. The candidate must possess an LL.D. or an equivalent post-doctoral degree in Law and be a permanent faculty member of a university, with a minimum of ten years of experience and at least ten (10) research papers published in peer-reviewed or refereed journals.

OR

- II. Professionals, Judges, or Government officials holding an LL.D. or an equivalent degree shall have a minimum of ten years of professional experience and at least ten (10) research papers published in peer-reviewed or refereed journals.

6. Duration

The duration of the D.Sc. and D.Litt. programmes shall be a minimum of two years and a maximum of four years, whereas the LL.D. programme shall

have a minimum duration of three years and a maximum of five years. On the application of the concerned scholar, accompanied by the report of the Supervisor, the Post-Doctoral Research Committee/Vice-Chancellor may grant an extension of six months at a time, provided that the total extension does not exceed a maximum of two years.

7. Research Supervisor

- i. **LL.D. Programme:** A full-time Professor of Law at MNLU, Mumbai, who has successfully supervised at least five (5) Ph.D. candidates, shall be eligible to serve as a supervisor.
- ii. **D.Sc. and D.Litt. Programmes:** The Vice-Chancellor, or a full-time Professor of Law at MNLU, Mumbai, with a minimum of ten years of experience at the Professor level and a record of supervising at least ten (10) Ph.D. candidates.

Please Note: *Appointment of a co-supervisor from outside MNLU, Mumbai, shall require the Vice-Chancellor's approval in special cases, upon the recommendation of the PDRC. Consent of the Supervisor is mandatory for such arrangement.*

8. Allocation of Supervisor

- i. The Vice-Chancellor shall designate a Professor, recognized by the University as a supervisor for LL.D., D.Sc., or D.Litt., to guide a candidate's research, considering eligibility, relevant rules, and the available faculty specializations or expertise. The Vice-Chancellor may also admit a candidate under their own supervision to the LL.D., D.Sc., or D.Litt. programmes in accordance with the rules outlined above.
- ii. Candidates enrolled in the D.Sc. or D.Litt. programmes shall continue their research under the same supervisor until the completion of their work, including the submission of the thesis, even if the supervisor leaves the University. This provision applies in cases of retirement, appointment as Vice-Chancellor, or transition to another professional role.

9. Procedure of Admission

- i. The University's Post-Doctoral Department shall scrutinize applications to confirm candidate eligibility and submit the list of

eligible candidates, together with their applications, to the Vice-Chancellor for consideration by the PDRC.

- ii. The shortlisted candidates shall make a comprehensive presentation before the PDRC and justify their candidature for registration, along with their proposed research plan.
- iii. The PDRC shall examine the applications and, based on the candidates' presentations, recommend those found eligible for admission. *The final list of eligible candidates must be approved by the Vice Chancellor.*
- iv. The Convenor of the Post- Doctoral Programme/Department /Registrar shall issue the letter of admission to each candidate recommended by the Vice-Chancellor and PDRC.
- v. Within one month of receiving the letter of admission, the candidate shall pay the prescribed fees and complete registration in the relevant programme by submitting the registration form.
- vi. All Post-Doctoral programmes shall be offered on a part-time basis only.

10. Constitution of Post Doctoral Research Committee

Subject to the general superintendence, the Post-Doctoral Research Committee (PDRC) shall oversee all matters relating to the Post-Doctoral Degree programmes in accordance with these Regulations. The PDRC shall examine research proposals, evaluate candidate presentations as described above, and recommend to the University a list of candidates eligible for admission to the respective Post-Doctoral Degree programmes for the academic year. While the PDRC may make recommendations, the final approval shall rest solely with the Vice-Chancellor.

The Vice-Chancellor shall nominate the member to the PDRC be as follows:

Vice Chancellor	Ex Officio Chairman
Registrar	Ex Officio Secretary
Dean (Academic)	Member
Professor of Law and Supervisor	Members

Two Subject experts from other university nominated by Vice Chancellor	Members
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The quorum of the Council for conducting matters related to the Post-Doctoral Research work shall be two-thirds (2/3rd) of its members. Following the selection of candidates, all aspects of the programme including the admission process, allocation of supervisors, evaluation of the thesis, award of the degree, and other related matters shall be governed in accordance with these Regulations.

11. Research Progress Report and Submission of Final Thesis

- i. The LL.D. candidate must submit the six-monthly progress report and present his/her research work before the PDRC committee. The PDRC shall review the research progress of LL.D. candidates every six months, and the scholar shall act upon the Committee's comments and recommendations in consultation with the supervisor.
- ii. For D.Sc. and D.Litt. candidates, the supervisor alone shall monitor the progress of research and review the work every six months.
- iii. D.Sc. and D.Litt. candidates shall submit their thesis for pre-submission presentation to the PDRC after two to four years from the date of admission, while LL.D. candidates shall do so after three to five years. The Committee may recommend changes or modifications in accordance with the prescribed norms. Candidates are required to incorporate these recommendations before submitting the final thesis to the University, following due deliberation and consultation with their supervisor.
- iv. The application of pre-submission must be submitted by the candidate after due approval from the supervisor.
- v. Following the pre-submission review, the candidate's work must satisfy the following conditions to qualify for the award of the degree:
 - a. The work must be substantial and of high quality, making a significant contribution to knowledge in the relevant discipline.
 - b. The work must be original, either by opening new avenues of

research, representing a marked advancement on prior investigations, or providing a novel interpretation of existing facts.

- vi. During the research programme, the scholar shall publish at least two research papers in journals, or chapters in edited books, or monographs. It is mandatory for all candidates to list Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai, as their institutional affiliation in all publications. For Scopus-indexed papers, the candidate must ensure that MNLU, Mumbai, is correctly included as one of the affiliations.
- vii. Candidate must ensure that the work must be entirely original and must not have been previously submitted for the award of any degree or diploma at this or any other university.
- viii. On completion of the research work and above formalities, the following criteria should be fulfilled for thesis submission
 - a. The printed thesis and abstract in five copies each through their supervisor which consist
 - i. A certificate of supervisor
 - ii. A declaration to be given by the candidate that he/she has done this work
 - iii. Certificate of originality (plagiarism report) as per MNLU Mumbai university policy
 - iv. Thesis submission fees
 - v. Soft copies in Pen Drive of the thesis in non-editable PDF format along with the E-mail to university (Ph.D. Department) clearly stating the Subject.
 - vi. Submission of ORCID ID
 - vii. No dues from Library and Finance department
 - viii. The supervisor will have to certify
 - a) The originality of research work
 - b) Certificate of submission

12. Thesis Evaluation

- i. The PDRC shall recommend a panel of Six experts in concerned area of work. *Supervisor may give the list of six experts to PRDC for recommendation.*
- ii. The Vice-Chancellor shall appoint three examiners. Each examiner must be a senior professor with over 25 years of teaching experience and possess substantial experience in guiding research scholars.
- iii. Each examiner will be requested to submit a detailed assessment including their recommendations, in the prescribed proforma within six weeks from the date of receiving the thesis for evaluation.
- iv. If an examiner fails to submit their report within the stipulated period, a reminder shall be issued. If the thesis report is not received from an examiner within three months, the Vice-Chancellor may appoint another examiner in their place to carry out the evaluation.
- v. In the event of dis-agreement between the external examiner, the Vice Chancellor may as a special case, appoint another external examiner, if the merit of the case so demands.
- vi. Where a candidate is asked to submit a revised thesis, it shall ordinarily be submitted within one year from the date of such communication. The Vice-Chancellor may, in exceptional cases, allow an extension of up to three months.

13. Award of Degree

The LL.D. degree shall be awarded upon completion of all the aforementioned processes, following approval by the PDRC and successful completion of the viva voce by the candidate.

The D.Sc. and D.Litt. degrees shall be awarded after completion of all the above processes and approval by the PDRC; no viva voce is required for these degrees.

The degrees shall be conferred at the University's Annual Convocation. However, candidates are entitled to receive a Provisional Certificate once the results are officially declared.

14. Removal of Difficulties

If any difficulty arises in implementing the provisions of these Regulations, the Vice-Chancellor may issue an order to resolve such difficulties. Any such action shall be reported to the next meeting of the Academic Council for information. Further, any doubt or dispute regarding the interpretation of these Regulations shall be referred to the Vice-Chancellor, whose decision, in the capacity of Chairman, shall be final.

Annexure I

Fees Structure

Particulars	LL.D. Fees	D.Sc. and D.Litt. Fees	Remarks
Application fees	5,000	5,000	One time
Admission fees	20,000	20,000	One time
First year Fees	25,000	30,000	Yearly
Subsequent Year Fees	30,000	35,000	Yearly
Thesis Submission and Evaluation Fees	20,000	20,000	One time
Resubmission fees	30,000	30,000	
Viva-Voce Fees	10,000	NIL	At the time of submission of thesis
Deposit	20,000	20,000	Refundable at the time of degree awarded

- Kindly click the link for the application [CLICK HERE](#)
- Kindly click the link for the payment [CLICK HERE](#)