



भारतीय विधिज्ञ परिषद् BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

(Statutory Body Constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961)

21, Rouse Avenue Institutional Area, Near Bal Bhawan, New Delhi - 110002

BCI: D: 685 : 2024 (LE/Std. 16.06.2024)

24.06.2024

1.	The Registrar, GLS University, GLS Campus, Opp. Law Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006 Gujarat mayurihimanshu@glsuniversity.ac.in foldirector@glsuniversity.ac.in registrar@glsuniversity.ac.in
2.	The Principal, Faculty of Law, GLS University, GLS Campus, Opp. Law Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006 Gujarat

Sub: Extension of approval to Faculty of Law, GLS University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat for imparting three year LL.B(Hons.) course with existing strength of two sections of 60 students alongwith two additional sections i.e. total four sections of 60 students in each section, five year BA LL.B course with intake of three sections of 60 students and five year BBA LL.B(Hons.) course with existing strength of two sections of 60 students alongwith one additional section i.e. total three sections of 60 students in each section for a period of one year i.e. for the academic year 2024-25.

Sir/Ma'am,

This is to bring to your kind knowledge that the Standing Committee of Legal Education Committee of Bar Council of India by virtue of its meeting held on 16th June, 2024 considered the matter of Faculty of Law, GLS University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

After consideration, extension of approval has been granted to Faculty of Law, GLS University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat for imparting three year LL.B(Hons.) course with existing strength of two sections of 60 students alongwith two additional sections i.e. total four sections of 60 students in each section, five year BA LL.B course with intake of three sections of 60 students and five year BBA LL.B(Hons.) course with existing strength of two sections of 60 students alongwith one additional section i.e. total three sections of 60 students in each section for a period of two years i.e. for the academic years 2024-25 and 2025-26.

Specific conditions imposed by the inspection team and approved by the Committee which are required to be complied with are as follows:-

1. The seating capacity of the students' study hall in the Library should be increased so that 25% of the total students can sit together and study at a time.
2. The CLE should also have Braille Script facility.
3. Usual Pay Scale of the UGC should be given always to the Faculty Members by the CLE.

AFFIDAVIT-

- ✓ ---An undertaking of complying with all the conditions mentioned above must be fulfilled/submitted to BCI within 15 days of receipt of this letter.
- ✓ Thereafter compliance has to be done at the earliest, within a period of 6 weeks from the date of receipt of this letter. A compliance affidavit (duly notarized) along with supporting documents has to be filed within the same period.

Kindly note that upon grant of approval, it shall be necessary for the Centre of Legal Education to deposit Rupees Five Lakh per course in shape of guarantee fee to fulfill all the norms of the Bar Council of India.

The same shall be liable to be forfeited if norms are not complied with and same shall carry no interest.

The letter is subject to the payment of guarantee amount as mentioned, effective from date of approval of affiliation and approval of affiliation granted shall be liable to be withdrawn if guarantee fee is not deposited.

Further details regarding payments including any Institutional Development fee, approval cum regular inspection fee, late fee etc., due, if any, shall be intimated to you in due course.

AN AFFIDAVIT THAT THE CENTRE OF LEGAL EDUCATION IS COMPLYING WITH THE BELOW STIPULATED NORMS, RULES, REGULATIONS AND MANDATORY GUIDELINES OF BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA AS WELL AS WITH ALL THE ENUMERATION STIPULATED IN THE ATTACHED CIRCULARS(WITH THIS LETTER) BEARING NOS. BCI: D: 465/2024 DATED 24.01.2024(ANNEXURE-A), BCI: D: 468/2024/CIR-006/2024(LE) DATED 20.05.2024 (ANNEXURE-B), BCI: D: 469/2024(LE/CIR.007) DATED 21.05.2024 (ANNEXURE-C) AND BCI:D:525/2024 (LE CIRCULAR NO. 008/2024) DATED 30.05.2024 (ANNEXURE-D) MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA WITHIN 15 DAYS OF THE RECEIPT OF THIS LETTER. NON-COMPLIANCE OF THE SAME SHALL RESULT IN NECESSARY ACTION.

- *You may kindly bear in mind that the Bar Council of India is the sole and supreme sanctioning authority for seats and it does not allow any supernumerary quota of seats for law degree courses, over and above the sanctioned strength of seats and whatever reservation of seats is to done by the University under*

whichever quota as a rule has to be done within sanctioned strength of seats. The only supernumerary quota, as of now permitted by the Bar Council of India, is 10 percent seats in EWS quota over and above the sanctioned strength of seats allotted/approved by BCI and that too, is subject to adequate infrastructure and qualified faculty to accommodate the supernumerary seats. The same is required to be adhered to. If there is any default on such part and the same is discovered subsequently, action shall ensue.

- *The CLE is advised to declare the same voluntarily for consideration of the same in a manner which will not be detrimental to interests of the students admitted, if any, over and above the sanctioned seats as a one time opportunity. The same shall not be construed to be applied prospectively.*
- *It is pertinent to point that no University in India can offer a 4 year LL.B or integrated LL.B, followed by a 1 year LL.M in tie up with a foreign University under the present BCI regulations. Such a Law degree, nor the post qualification after it, is recognised by Bar Council of India. The BCI only recognizes the pattern of a 12th class +3 (graduation in any stream+3 (year Law degree) and/or a 12 + 5 year integrated law degree.*
- *While exchange programs of teachers and students have been undertaken by Centers of Legal Education including, Law Universities in India, Dual Degrees or joint Degrees with Foreign Universities have not been permitted or recognized by BCI. It is essential to emphasize that any foreign collaboration involving legal education institutions, must strictly adhere to the regulatory framework established by the Bar Council of India. It cannot compromise on the quality of legal education mandated by the BCI. It's worth noting that unless a degree is recognized by the BCI in India, it holds no validity within the country. Therefore, a degree obtained from an Indian University, being recognized solely in a foreign jurisdiction, without recognition in India, would be of no consequence to the university or its students.*
- *Recognition and approval of law degrees are exclusively within the purview of the Bar Council of India. Consequently, if, upon thorough evaluation it is determined Law degrees are being issued by Universities against the rules and norms of Bar Council of India, recognition of such degree/s shall be withdrawn and such degree holders shall not be entitled to be enrolled in any State Bar Council in India.*
- *BCI and it's Legal Education Committee have time and again reiterated, stated and clarified, that it does not recognise LL.B*

and/or LL.M or any Law degree course through online mode, correspondence, open and/or distance learning mode.

- **It has further come to the attention of the Bar Council of India and its Legal Education Committee that certain institutions are offering Master of Arts (MA) programs with a Law subject, in open and distance learning mode, or online mode which attempts to mimic the structure and content of a Master of Laws (LL.M.) program. Upon careful examination, it has been observed that such an endeavor is beyond the scope and intent of a Master of Arts Degree and is deemed impermissible. It is hereby clarified that such MA degrees will not be recognized by the BCI as equivalent to a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree and for the purpose of teaching of LL.B. Course.**
- **It is crucial to clarify that the designation "MA" signifies "Master of Arts," whereas "LL.M." represents "Legum Magister," a Latin term denoting a "Master of Laws" Degree. The distinction between these two titles is significant, as an LL.M. degree is specifically tailored for graduates of law programs, whereas an MA degree encompasses a broader range of academic disciplines and is separate and distinguished from Master of Laws Degree. It is a deliberate attempt to bypass LL.M. in such a manner.**
- **The BCI emphasizes that an MA degree with a Law subject does not confer the same benefits or privileges as an LL.M. degree. Individuals holding an MA degree in Law will not be entitled to the benefits typically associated with possessing an LL.M. degree, nor will they be eligible to teach in LL.B degree programs. Pursuit of legal education at the postgraduate level, in the form of an LL.M. degree, is restricted to individuals who have completed their undergraduate legal studies while it is clarified that any specialized branch of law offered at the master's level, without the LL.B./BA.LLB qualification as the requisite entry-level credential, shall not be recognised as equivalent to an LL.M. degree.**
- **It is imperative for all stakeholders in the legal education sector to understand that the distinction between an MA degree and an LL.M. degree is significant. An MA degree with a Law subject does not fulfill the requirements for recognition by the BCI as a qualification equivalent to an LL.M. degree.**
- **This serves to clarify the position of the BCI on the recognition of MA degrees with a Law subject and to prevent any misconceptions regarding their equivalence to LL.M. degrees.**

- **The BCI and its Legal Education Committee has further also observed that running an MA (with Law subject) by any such mode is an attempt to mimic an LL.M, which is also not permitted by such mode.**
- **It has also been brought to the notice of Bar Council of India that some entities claiming to be Centre of Legal Education are offering courses through distance education/correspondence mode, under the nomenclature of the degree of LL.M. or LL.M. professional, where anyone even without LL.B. can get an LL.M. degree, and, the same persons are also getting registered for Ph.D., appearing for UGC NET etc. thereby diluting quality of legal education.**
- **This is an illegal practice and Bar Council of India shall not hesitate in taking stringent action against such centres.**
- **As per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 29.08.2019 passed in Writ Petition (Civil) No.1510 of 2018, titled as Vinit Garg Vs. University Grants Commission and as per the earlier order of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 03.11.2017 passed in Civil Appeal Nos.17869-17870, arising out of SLP No. 19807-19808/2012 in the case of Odisha Lift Irrigation Corp Ltd. Vs Ravi Shankar Patro & Ors., the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that an University has to obtain permission from the concerned regulatory body for initiating/starting, opening and conducting any distance learning course/s.**
- **As per UGC Regulations 4(A)(iv), (Open and Distance Learning Programmes & Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020, the Higher Educational Institution must have the approval or recommendations of the statutory or regulatory authority, in this case, the Bar Council of India (BCI), for offering law programs in Open and Distance Learning mode or Online mode.**
- **Explanation: Programmes as mentioned at clause (iv) shall be considered only when these are recommended by the respective statutory or regulatory authority or regulatory council to offer in Open and Distance Learning mode or Online mode, as applicable....."**
- **Furthermore, the Distance Education Bureau under UGC explicitly prohibits courses in engineering, law, medicine, dental, pharmacy, nursing, architecture, physiotherapy, applied arts, and other such programs from being offered through online mode without approval from the respective statutory or regulatory bodies.**

➤ ***Some Universities, including some reputed Universities are running such programs in flagrant violation of clear directives and guidelines as stipulated above and without even having made a request or application to BCI in this regard. It is categorically made clear, such programs have no recognition and/or approval from BCI.***

➤ ***CLE's must ensure to comply with these directives, failing which necessary action will ensue.***

A. Conditions/Rules of Legal Education regarding which compliance affidavit has to be filed.

-----Further kindly ensure to furnish authenticated and signed bank statements of salary transferred to your faculty bearing bank stamp/seal and signature of the bank manager for a period of three months with effect from the date of receipt of this letter for the preceding period of three months must be furnished immediately. This must be continued to be submitted every three months without fail.

Kindly also furnish purchase receipts of Indian Bar Review and other minimum Library requirement, failing which the Centre of Legal Educations shall be liable to the natural consequences, which may include revocation of recognition/approval granted.

Centre of Legal Education (CLE) as defined under the Rules of Legal Education stands for the following and is being reproduced below for convenience:

"Centres of Legal Education" means (a) All approved Departments of Law of Universities, Colleges of Law, Constituent Colleges under recognized Universities and affiliated Colleges or Schools of law of recognized Universities so approved.

Provided that a Department or College or Institution conducting correspondence courses through distance education shall not be included.

B. The Centre of Legal Education is directed to ensure compliance of the conditions stipulated above and also comply with Legal Education Rules 2008, failure of which may lead to subsequent necessary and proper action being taken in this regard :-

1. The Centre of Legal Education is directed to ensure establishment and continuance of a Legal Aid Centre as per Clause-11, Schedule-III of Rule-11 of the Part-IV of the Legal Education Rules – 2008. CLE **should keep activated** Legal Aid Clinic.
2. Centre of Legal Education must ensure to teach clinical subjects and give marks as per the schedule.
3. Centre of Legal Education should ensure the payment of salary to teachers as per Rules 22 schedule III, Part IV of BCI Rules.

4. The library should be furnished as per Clause 15 of Schedule III of Legal Education Rules 2008 given below :-

Minimum Library requirement: To start with, a Law Library shall have a set of AIR manual, Combo offer of CD of AIR Pvt. Ltd. (containing electronic version of AIR Supreme Court and High Court Data bases Research 1950-2015 (four connections each) Cr. L.J. Data Base 1950-2015(four connections) AIR Privy Council Data Base 1900-1950 (four connections) AIR Mannual latest 6th Edition(1-45 Vols.) AIR Journal 2015, Cr. L.J. 2015, L.I.C. 2015, AIR Civil Cases 2015, AIR Law Lines 2015, AIR Cheque Dishonour Reports 2015, AIR Accident Claims and compensation 2015, Institution shall get electronic versions updated every year by AIR Pvt. Ltd. Central Acts and Local Acts, Criminal law journal, SCC, Company cases, Indian Bar Review, selected Judgements on Professional Ethics and Journals with the back volumes for at least ten years and also such number of text books in each subjects taught during the period according to the minimum standard ratio of ten books for each registered students. For running integrated program, text books of such other subjects are also to be kept in the similar minimum ratio.

5. The **Centre of Legal Education** should keep in mind that minimum 10 sets of Indian Bar Review, selected judgments and professional Ethics published by Bar Council of India Trust and the AIR volumes/set must be promptly ordered for the library if not already ordered, as it is an essential requirement to run a law college which is stipulated by Bar Council of India, Legal Education Rules 2008 framed under a Parliament Act.
6. The **Center of Legal Education** is directed to make a minimum investment as provided below for upgrading it's library as per the following guideline :-
- "Today with the increasing cost of journals, books, wi-fi, e-library and online facilities including I.T. facilities, the minimum investment by each university should be Rs. 10 lakhs for each year. However for any university/deemed university in rural area, the investment should be Rs. 5 Lakh and for all other affiliated colleges in the urban area it should be Rs. 2 lakhs and in rural area it should be Rs. 1 lakh."***
7. Teacher Student ratio **shall be 1:40** as per Schedule-III, Rule-11, Clause-17, Part-IV of Bar Council of India Rules.
8. **Centre of Legal Education** is directed to inform the timings of the classes.
9. **Centre of Legal Education** must ensure that not less than three percent seats are reserved for persons with disabilities.
10. **Centre of Legal Education** shall equip itself to provide appropriate facilities in terms of the physical infrastructure, academic infrastructure and any other facilities required for the effective participation of disabled students, teachers and staff in their respective activities. For e.g. (a) ramps in public buildings and (b) Braille symbols and auditory signals in elevators or lifts.

C. Further, the Centre of Legal Education should maintain the timing which has to be minimum 5 ½ hours with half an hour break.

Rule (xxiii), Chapter I

“(xxiii) “Regular Course of Study” means and includes a course which runs for at least five hours a day continuously with an additional half an hour recess every day and running not less than thirty hours of working schedule per week.”

Rule 5 of Schedule III

“Classes may be conducted between 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. in a Centre of Legal Education, which is not fully residential. However the Library may remain open till 10 p.m.”

- ✓ **D. Further, the Centre of Legal Education should follow the attendance rule and file affidavit that they are following the aforesaid and below mentioned rule. The next inspection team shall also see whether the said rules are being followed by the university or not. The relevant Rule 12 is given below :-**

“12. End Semester Test: No student of any of the degree program shall be allowed to take the end semester test in a subject if the student concerned has not attended minimum of 70% of the classes held in the subject concerned as also the moot court room exercises, tutorials and practical training conducted in the subject taken together.

Provided that if a student for any exceptional reasons fail to attend 70% of the classes held in any subject, the Dean of the University or the Principal of the Centre of Legal Education, as the case may be, may allow the student to take the test if the student concerned attended at least 65% of the classes held in the subject concerned and attended 70% of classes in all the subjects taken together. The similar power shall rest with the Vice Chancellor or Director of a National Law University, or his authorized representative in the absence of the Dean of Law.

Provided further that a list of such students allowed to take the test with reasons recorded be forwarded to the Bar Council of India.”

- E. Centre of Legal Education should also admit students as per the below mentioned Rule:**

7. Minimum marks in qualifying examination for admission: Bar Council of India may from time to time, stipulate the minimum percentage of marks not below 45% of the total marks in case of general category applicants, 42% for OBC category and 40% of the total marks in case of SC and ST applicants, to be obtained for the qualifying examination, such as +2 Examination in case of Integrated Five Years' course or Degree course in any discipline for Three years' LL.B. course, for the purpose of applying for and getting admitted into a Law Degree Program of any recognized University in either of the streams.

Provided that such a minimum qualifying marks shall not automatically entitle a person to get admission into an institution but only shall entitle the person concerned to fulfill other institutional

criteria notified by the institution concerned or by the government concerned from time to time to apply for admission.

F. Centre of Legal Education to follow Clause-24, Schedule-II of Legal Education Rule-2008 lays down Moot Court exercises and Internship; Clause-25, Schedule-III lays down Minimum period of Internship which is quoted hereunder.

(i) 24. Moot court exercise and Internship:

This paper may have three components of 30 marks each and a viva for 10 marks.

(a) Moot Court (30 Marks). Every student may be required to do at least three moot courts in a year with 10 marks for each. The moot court work will be on assigned problem and it will be evaluated for 5 marks for written submissions and 5 marks for oral advocacy.

(b) Observance of Trial in two cases, one Civil and one Criminal (30 marks):

Students may be required to attend two trials in the course of the last two or three years of LL.B. studies. They will maintain a record and enter the various steps observed during their attendance on different days in the court assignment. This scheme will carry 30 marks.

(c) Interviewing techniques and Pre-trial preparations and Internship diary (30 marks):

Each student will observe two interviewing sessions of clients at the Lawyer's Office/Legal Aid Office and record the proceedings in a diary, which will carry 15 marks. Each student will further observe the preparation of documents and court papers by the Advocate and the procedure for the filing of the suit/petition. This will be recorded in the diary, which will carry 15 marks.

(d) The fourth component of this paper will be Viva Voce examination on all the above three aspects. This will carry 10 marks.

(ii) 25. Minimum Period of Internship: (a) Each registered student shall have completed minimum of twelve weeks internship for Three Year Course stream and twenty weeks in case of Five Year Course stream during the entire period of legal studies under NGO, Trial and Appellate Advocates, Judiciary, Legal Regulatory authorities, Legislatures and Parliament, Other Legal Functionaries, Market Institutions, Law Firms, Companies, Local Self Government and other such bodies as the University shall stipulate, where law is practiced either in action or in dispute resolution or in management.

Provided that internship in any year cannot be for a continuous period of more than Four Weeks and all students shall at least gone through once in the entire academic period with Trial and Appellate Advocates.

(b) Each student shall keep Internship diary in such form as may be stipulated by the University concerned and the same shall be evaluated by the Guide in Internship and also a Core Faculty member of the staff each time. The total mark shall be assessed in the Final Semester of the course in the 4th Clinical course as stipulated under the Rules in Schedule II.

G. Centre of Legal Education should also follow Rule-10 of Legal Education Rules 2008 which is quoted hereunder :-

10. Semester system

The course leading to either degree in law, unitary or on integrated double degree, shall be conducted in semester system in not less than 15 weeks for unitary degree course or not less than 18 weeks in double degree integrated course with not less than 30 class-hours per week including tutorials, moot court room exercise and seminars provided there shall be at least 24 lecture hours per week.

Provided further that in case of specialized and/or honours law courses there shall be not less than 36 class-hours per week including seminar, moot court and tutorial classes and 30 minimum lecture hours per week.

Provided further that Universities are free to adopt trimester system with appropriate division of courses per trimester with each of the trimester not less than 12 weeks.

H. Centre of Legal Education should also follow Rule 17 and Rule 18 of Schedule III of Legal Education Rules 2008 which is quoted hereunder :-

(i) Rule 17. Core Faculty:

There shall be sufficient number of full time faculty members in each Centre of Legal Education (i.e. ,Department, constituent or affiliated college) to teach each subject at all point of time for running courses who can be supported by part time or visiting faculty. Such a core faculty shall in no case be less than six in the first year of the approval with both streams in operation, eight in the second year and ten in the case of third year of law courses. In addition, for the integrated course qualification as is required under the UGC guideline or under such other standard setting body as the discipline is allotted to by any Act, statute, or Rules of the Government of India or of a State.

For the Three Year Bachelor of Law degree course only with two sections without the Honour program, there shall be minimum of 4 core faculty in the first year six in the second and eight in the third year in addition to the Principal/ Head or Dean as the case may be.

Provided that an institution intending to run any specialized or honours course must have at least three faculty in the group in which specialization and honours courses are offered.

Provided further that each full time faculty shall take as many classes in the subject or subjects as may be assigned to them on the basis of standard prescribed by 'the standard setting institution' like UGC.

Provided further, if any institution of a University, which was already affiliated to the University and approved to run professional courses of either scheme or both by the Bar Council of India after inspection of the University, falls short of required full time faculty, the new admission in courses may be required to remain suspended until new required number of faculty is procured. The University shall before starting a new academic session, notify which institutions are only be allowed to admit fresh students.

Provided further that if while inspecting the University it was found that in any institution of the University adequate number of full time faculty was not there in the staff, the Bar Council after giving notice to the University

might give a public notice directing the University not to admit students in the new academic year in that institution.

There shall be adequate faculty in the subjects offered in the liberal educational subjects as part of the course by the institution. These faculties in the liberal educational discipline in Arts, Science, Management, Commerce, Engineering, Technology or any other discipline shall possess

(ii) **Rule -18 Minimum weekly class program per subject (paper):.**

There shall be for each paper (with 4 credit) Four class-hours for one hour duration each and one hour of tutorial/ moot court/project work per week.

AFFIDAVIT-

- ✓ **Kindly ensure to comply with all the above stipulated and all other requisite Rules of Legal Education 2008 by way of duly notarized compliance affidavit by attaching adequate documentation proof with the same with a period of 6 weeks for being eligible to be issued further Approval for further subsequent academic years and failure to furnish the same shall make the CLE liable to the natural consequences which may include revocation of recognition/approval granted.**

This letter is subject to final approval/confirmation of the Legal Education Committee and General Council of the Bar Council of India.

You are also requested to attach a copy of this letter with your compliance report/reply.

It is suggested that all information should be provided to Bar Council of India both in hard and soft copy/pen-drive and by email at complianceaffiliationle2@gmail.com.

This is for your information and necessary action.

Yours sincerely,



**(Nalin Raj Chaturvedi)
Joint Secretary, BCI
[Legal Education Department]**



**(Ashok Kumar Pandey)
Joint Secretary
HOD, Legal Education Dept.**



**(Srimanto Sen)
Secretary**

