Faculty of Law
University of Delhi

Date: 27.05.2019

Minutes

A meeting of the LL.M. Committee was held on 23-24 May 2019.

The following members attended the meeting:

Prof. Ved Kumari
Dr. Kiran Gupta
Dr. V. K. Ahuja
Dr. Anju Vali Tikoo
Dr. Poonam Dass
Dr. L. Pushpa Kumar
Dr. Alka Chawla sent her regrets. Prof. Usha Tandon did not attend the meeting.

The Committee examined the Guidelines relating to submission of Research Papers and Dissertations and the recommendations of the sub-committee constituted to look into the extent of applicability of Ordinance VI to LL.M. students.

1. After detailed deliberations, the following guidelines relating to submission of Research Paper in each course in each term and the Dissertation were adopted and the same were recommended to be included in the LL.M. Ordinance after getting the approved by the Committee of Courses and Faculty of Law for forwarding these to AC / EC.

Guidelines for successful submission of Dissertation and Research Paper in each Term by all LL.M. students:

a. One Research Paper has to be submitted and presented in the class in each course in each term.
b. The word limit for Research Paper is 3000 – 5000 words. The student must mention the word count in the covering email while sending their papers to their teachers.
c. The similarity with other publish work must not be more than 10% after applying the exclusion as permitted by the UGC.

Note 1: The similarity checks for plagiarism shall exclude the following:

i. All quoted work reproduced with all necessary permission and/or attribution.
ii. All references, bibliography, table of content, preface and acknowledgements.
iii. All generic terms, laws, standard symbols and standards equations.
iv. Common knowledge or coincidental terms up to 14 consecutive words.

Note 2: “Laws” referred to in clause (iii) above shall include legal provisions, legal doctrines and phrases, case titles, titles of Acts / books / Reports / citations, and any other material of similar nature.

d. The paper must be written in proper English without grammatical and spelling mistakes. It must be properly formatted, and should contain Introduction, Headings, Subheadings and Conclusion.
e. Every Research Paper must have a separate cover page containing the title of the Research paper, course name and number, name of the student, class roll number,
term, LL.M. 2 Years or 3 Years course (as the case may be), name of the course
teacher, date of submission, number of words.
f. The students should use Times New Roman, Font size 12 for text and 10 for
footnotes, line space of 1.5.
g. The Research Paper must contain footnotes whether the information is
paraphrased or quoted from another source. The students should follow a uniform
system of citation.
h. The quoted text must not be more than 30%. Complete citation for all quotations
must be provided. Otherwise, those quotations will not be excluded from the
similarity check.
i. Only word files will be accepted and not pdf.
j. The Research Papers need not have Bibliography.
k. Use of any tricks to subvert plagiarism check will amount to use of unfair means
and the same shall be reported to examination branch for necessary action.

Penalties in case of plagiarism in submission of dissertation: The LL.M. Committee shall
impose penalty considering the severity of the Plagiarism.

i. Level 0: Similarities up to 10% - Minor Similarities, no penalty.
ii. Level 1: Similarities above 10% to 40% - Such student shall be asked to submit a
revised script within a stipulated time period not exceeding 6 months.
iii. Level 2: Similarities above 40% to 60% - Such student shall be debarred from
submitting a revised script for a period of one year.
iv. Level 3: Similarities above 60% - Such student registration for that programme
shall be cancelled.

Note 1: Penalty on repeated plagiarism- Such student shall be punished for the plagiarism of
one level higher than the previous level committed by him/her. In case where plagiarism of
highest level is committed then the punishment for the same shall be operative.

Note 2: Penalty in case where the degree/credit has already been obtained - If plagiarism is
proved on a date later than the date of award of degree or credit as the case may be then
his/her degree or credit shall be put in abeyance for a period recommended by the IAIP and
approved by the Head of the Institution.

2. The Committee deliberated at length on giving credits for Research Paper presented in
each Course. It decided that internal assessment of Research papers be revived and 20
marks be kept for internal assessment to be conducted by the teacher concerned. The end
semester exam should be of 80 marks and students should continue to have the option of
four out of six questions as at present.

3. The Committee accepted the recommendations of the Sub-Committee relating to
applicability of Ordinance VI and suggested some changes in the scheme of papers
offered to LL.M. 2 year and 3 year courses. It was resolved that the following additions /
changes be made in the LL.M. Ordinance:

a. Any regular Professor of the Department with at least five research publications
in refereed journals and any regular Associate/Assistant Professor of the
department with a Ph.D. degree and at least two research publications in refereed
journals may be recognized as a Supervisor. Provided that in areas/disciplines
"where there is no/a limited number of refereed journals, LL.M. Committee may
relax the above condition for recognition of a person as Research Supervisor with
reasons recorded in writing."

b. Only a full-time regular teacher of Department can act as a Supervisor. External
supervisors are not allowed. However, Co-Supervisor can be appointed in inter-
disciplinary areas from other Department of the University or other related institutions with the approval of the LL.M. Committee.

c. An eligible faculty member would ordinarily be allotted only one LL.M. student for dissertation supervision. In exceptional circumstances, where no subject expert is available, more than one but not exceeding three students may be allotted to a faculty member.

d. Bifurcate the 200 marks for Dissertation into
   i. 150 marks for dissertation evaluation
   ii. 50 marks for viva voce examination

e. Prior to submission of the dissertation, the students shall make a pre-submission presentation in the Department before the LL.M. Committee, which shall also be open to all faculty members and other students. The feedback and comments obtained from them may be suitably incorporated in the draft dissertation in consultation with the Supervisor.

f. The dissertations should be evaluated only by external examiner.

g. The viva-voce examination, based among other things, on the critiques given in the evaluation report, shall be conducted by both the Supervisor and External examiner together, and shall be open to all faculty members of the Department, other students and other interested experts/researchers.

h. "Legal and Social Science Research Methods" course should be offered in the first semester as a compulsory course in addition to the other compulsory course, "Comparative Constitution Law and Governance."

Consequently, changes be made in the scheme of courses in the LLM

i. 2 year LL.M. Course: As there are two compulsory courses in the first semester, the students shall choose two optional courses in the first semester instead of three. In the third term, the students shall choose three optional courses instead of two.

ii. 3 year LL.M. Course: As there are two compulsory courses in the first semester, the students shall choose one optional course in the first semester instead of two. In the third term, the students shall choose two optional courses instead of one.

i. The students pursuing LL.M. 2year/3year courses shall submit synopsis for dissertation in the 3rd/5th semester respectively, by the 15th October. The supervisors may be appointed by the 15th November after successful defence of the synopsis by the candidate through an interview before a panel appointed by the LL.M. Committee.

4. The Committee also considered the letter dated 5th May 2019 received from Mr. Avinash Kumar communicating his inability to send an e-copy of his dissertation which needs to be reevaluated in the light of the directions of the Supreme Court. It was decided to send the dissertation for revaluation by an expert outside of Delhi University.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

Prof. Ved Kumari
Head and Dean