

Concept Note on School of Law, Governance and Citizenship.

The School of Law, Governance and Citizenship (LGC) is a teaching-cum-research institution that focuses on the “social meaning” of law. The proposed programmes offered by the LGC will approach the study of law as a social science/ humanities discipline, and develop a deeper understanding of issues of law, governance and citizenship in their social, political, and historical settings.

While a number of programmes in universities (law, political science, sociology, history, economics, and business departments) are engaged in the study of law/ governance, their approaches are rooted in the often different methods of study and perspectives of each discipline. There is clearly a need for an interdisciplinary school that focuses on the interface between law, state/non-state institutions, and social processes.

The LGC plans to offer the following programmes in three phases:

First phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3-year BA Honours in Social Sciences and Humanities with Law and Governance as one of two or three streams• 3-year BA Honours with Major in Law and Governance• 4-year BA Honours with Double Major in Law and X• Ph.D
Second phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MA / LL.M (Law and Governance)
Third phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3-year LL.B• Short-term diploma programmes in specialised areas

BA Honours in Social Sciences and Humanities with Law and Governance as one of two or three streams; BA Honours with Major in Law and Governance; BA Honours with double major in Law and X

The proposed BA Honours programme with Major in Law and Governance will offer a deep understanding of the law in its social setting in certain concentration areas. An undergraduate programme focusing on the interfaces

between law and society marks a departure from existing law degree programmes geared towards producing legal professionals.

The LGC will offer two concentrations/ focus areas in the Law Major initially: Human Rights and Legal History. These cross-cutting concentration areas were chosen keeping in mind the overall vision of AUD as an academic institution focusing on social justice and equality. Other concentrations/ thematic focus areas will be considered in subsequent years.

These undergraduate programmes will have considerable flexibility in their design, and will not be subject to constraints imposed by professional bodies such as the Bar Council. Several of the courses in this programme can also be offered jointly with other schools of AUD.

During the first year, students will complete Foundation courses common to all BA Honours programmes in AUD. The LGC will design courses with a focus on issues of law, governance and citizenship as an offering to all students of the BA Honours (Social Sciences and Humanities), as well as Single Major and Double Major students.

From the second semester onwards, all students of the BA Honours with major in Law and Governance will begin to opt for elective courses in Law and Governance and complete at least 48 credits in this discipline area. They will additionally complete 16 credits from one of the following selected discipline areas: Sociology, Political Science, Economics, Development Studies, Literature, Philosophy and other such discipline areas offered under the undergraduate programme at AUD.

Graduating students may choose to join several institutions and agencies in India that are engaged in the study of the law, its role in society, and ongoing legal reforms. These include the judicial and civil services, think tanks, universities, voluntary agencies, international development agencies, and political organisations.

Graduating students who wish to study further, will be well prepared to pursue a 3-year LLB programme (whether this will be offered within AUD can be decided later). The thematic approach of the BA (Law and Governance Hons.) programme will lay an excellent foundation for a 3-year LLB programme. They

may also pursue MA in Law and Governance (that AUD may consider offering at an appropriate time) or MA in Development Studies or in Environment and Development. Graduates of the Double Major programme will also be well equipped to pursue an MA in the social sciences/ humanities/ Journalism.

Clearly, the BA Honours with Major in Law and Governance plus LLB combination will offer entering students prospects that are similar to those offered by a five-year law school, with the additional flexibility of changing course mid-way to pursue higher studies in social sciences/ humanities if they choose to. The price of this flexibility is a 6-year course of study before they can enrol at the Bar. However, this flexibility may be highly desirable given the age (18-years) at which students need to make career choices (with little understanding of their aptitude for such a career). The BA+MA combination will be unique given the rigorous grounding in Law provided during the BA programme.

Ph.D programme:

Ph.D students will be admitted based on the core areas of research of LGC. Students with a social science/ humanities/ law postgraduate degree will be eligible for admission. These students can be offered research/ teaching assistantships and assist faculty in teaching/ tutorials at the undergraduate level. Admitted candidates must have cleared the NET/equivalent exam in the relevant fields and must have interdisciplinary research interests. The Ph.D programmes will be offered after the faculty appointments for the BA (Law Hons.) programme are completed.

Research focus of the LGC

- Jurisprudence and modern social theory
- Regulatory regimes and governance
- Colonialism and South Asia
- Constitutionalism and Democracy
- Law as applied in citizen's lives
- Labour and Development
- Globalisation and regulatory challenges

Faculty recruitment plan:

In the initial phase, the BA (Law and Governance Hons.) programme will offer concentrations in Human Rights and Legal History. This will require a mix of faculty with specialisations in sociology/ anthropology, history, political science, law, economics, development studies, and women's studies.

The LGC will offer:

- 2 courses in Semester 2
- 3 courses each in Semester 3-6
- 1-2 courses each in Semester 7-8 (Double Major degree).

From year 4 onwards, at peak load, the BA (Law Hons.) programme will be offering 10 courses in the even semester (2 + 3 + 3 + 2). Faculty will also be involved in conducting limited initial course-work for the Ph.D programme. In addition, some courses will also be offered by LGC faculty in programmes offered by other Schools.

Keeping this in mind, the following appointments will need to be in place by Year 4¹ for the BA (Law Hons.) programme:

- One Professor in Law
- Two - four Associate Professors, one each in the areas of History, Sociology/ Anthropology, Law, Economics/Philosophy/ Development Studies
- Three - four Assistant Professors in the areas of Law, Political Science, Economics and Sociology/ Anthropology, Development Studies, Philosophy.

The discipline-wise distribution of faculty would be as follows:

Discipline	Level	Number	Required Number in Discipline
Law	Professor	1	
	Associate Professor	0-1	
	Assistant Professor	1	2-3
Sociology/Anthropology	Associate Professor	1	
	Assistant Professor	0-1	1-2
History	Associate	0-1	

¹ In case faculty are assigned teaching duties in other Schools, the numbers will have to be increased appropriately.

	Professor		
	Assistant Professor	0-1	1
Political Science	Associate Professor	0-1	
	Assistant Professor	0-1	1
Economics/ Development Studies/ /Philosophy	Associate Professor	1	
	Assistant Professor	0-1	1-2
TOTAL			6-9

All faculty members will have interdisciplinary research specialisations in the thematic concentrations offered by LGC. It must be noted that faculty recruited by other Schools of AUD may not necessarily be appropriate for LGC as they may not have specialised in law-related research areas. For instance, a faculty member recruited in the History area by LGC would have done considerable work in Legal History as compared to a faculty member in History recruited by other Schools who may have focused on other aspects. It is therefore necessary to recruit interdisciplinary faculty in all the above subject areas specifically for the courses offered by the LGC.

Second Phase:

In the second phase, the LGC proposes to offer MA (Law and Governance)/LL.M (Law and Governance) programmes. The MA programme will be open to graduates from all disciplines subject to their completing additional courses to make up for pre-requisites (to be decided on a case-by-case basis). The LL.M (Law and Governance) programme will be open to LL.B. students. MA/LL.M programme will, among other things, focus on critical thinking on the interface between law and governance, groups marginalised by the law and state, the capacity and limits of law to be an emancipatory force, etc. Students will select a major concentration area (some of which are listed below), and also submit a research dissertation in the area. Students will also be encouraged to take up seminar courses, and courses of independent study. Students will be required to submit a dissertation in the final semester.

Concentrations in MA/ LL.M could include:

Law and Public Policy - This concentration calls for knowledge of economics, budgetary analysis, developments in administrative and regulatory aspects of the law

Social Inclusion and Identity - This concentration will focus on issues of identity, the construction of citizenship

Judicial Administration and Access to Justice - This concentration will focus on court processes, judicial behaviour, jurimetrics, informal processes of dispute resolution.

Rethinking Human Rights - This concentration will focus on contemporary theoretical developments in this area of human rights

Critical Perspectives on Crime, Law and Justice - This concentration will focus on the normative structures, the 'gap' in their application, 'exceptionalism' and the norm

Third phase:

In the third phase, a 3-year LL.B programme will be offered by the LGC. This is in order to ensure that well-trained BA (Law and Governance Hons.) students are retained within the AUD system and not lost to other universities. This will also ensure that faculty members from a law background are retained within AUD. The programme will be structured keeping in mind the guidelines governing professional legal education in India.