



Azim Premji  
University

# LL.M. IN LAW AND DEVELOPMENT



POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

.....  
**Developing Leaders  
for Social Change**  
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## Why an LL.M. in Law & Development?

The LL.M. in Law and Development is a unique programme designed to impart interdisciplinary and critical approaches to understanding the domains of law, society, and development in India. A distinct aspect of the programme is that it provides equal emphasis on conceptual, doctrinal, and empirical skills; integrating them in Public and Private law subjects. The interdisciplinary and critical approaches combine elements of law, social sciences, and public policy; thereby enabling students to make more meaningful inquiries into ideas that are grounded, informed, and socially relevant.

Another distinct feature of the programme is its focus on institutionalism. The programme aims to provide a textured understanding of how law and legal institutions operate in Indian society. Students will have opportunities to appreciate the significance of such an institutional approach in responding to contemporary problems in social policy.

## Why an LL.M. at Azim Premji University?

### Programme Objectives:

The main objectives of the LL.M. in Law & Development programme at Azim Premji University are:

1. Facilitating the creation of a diverse cohort of academically proficient and socially engaged scholars and practitioners of law.
2. Introducing students from law backgrounds to debates on the significance and role of legal institutions.
3. Enabling students to critically engage with the possibility and the means of using law as an agency of positive social change.





## Programme Structure

Component	Semester 1	Semester 2
<b>Taught Courses (Core and Elective)</b>	Law and Justice in a Globalising World (4 Credits)	Comparative Public Law/Systems of Governance (4 Credits)
	Law and Development (4 Credits)	Elective Course 2 (3 Credits)
	Research Methods and Legal Writing (4 Credits)	Elective Course 3 (3 Credits)
	Elective Course 1 (3 Credits)	Elective Course 1 (3 Credits)
<b>Field Practice</b>	<b>Law &amp; Policy Hub Group Field Project</b> (Runs across the length of the programme) (4 Credits)  <b>Internship</b> (4 weeks during the winter break) (2 Credits)	
<b>Dissertation</b>	(Runs across the length of the programme) (5 Credits)	

**Total Number of Credits** = 4 \* 4 (Core courses) + 3 \* 3 (Elective courses) + 5 (Dissertation) + 4 (Law Policy Hub field Project) + 2 (Internship) = 36

## Field Practice:

The field practice in the programme comprises of two components: a Law and Policy Hub group project conducted through the year; and, an individual internship of four weeks. The Law and Policy Hub group project provides an opportunity for law graduates to engage with first-year students of the MA in Public Policy and Governance programme and to pursue empirically driven research into a theme that lies at the intersection of law and policy. This project has close handholding and supervision process by a dedicated team of faculty and has a requirement of 21 days of focused field work.

In addition, the students are required to undergo a relevant internship of four weeks, which is assessed by a faculty advisor.

## Dissertation:

All LL.M. students are required to write a thesis on a theme chosen by them and worked through the year under

supervision of an assigned faculty supervisor. Writing a dissertation provides opportunities for evolving and sharpening a variety of writing and analysis skills. It also includes intense engagement with a specific theme, conceptualising a research problem, evolving appropriate methods and instruments of data, and evidence relevant for the thesis.

## Pedagogy and Classroom Ethos:

The ethos of learning at Azim Premji University places emphasis on collaborative, constructive, and reflexive approaches to teaching. Classes are conducted in an interactive way and students are expected to actively engage and participate in discussions. Each student will have the opportunity to bring her own perspective on assigned readings to such discussions. Classrooms are conceived as spaces for creative thinking and critical engagement.



# FACULTY



**Arun Thiruvengadam** holds an LL.M. and J.S.D. from New York University. He teaches courses on Welfare Rights in India, Comparative Public Law, and Law and Development. His research interests include comparative constitutional law and theory, Indian constitutional law, law and development, and legal education.



**Sitharamam Kakarala** holds an LL.M. from Nottingham University and Ph.D. from Centre for Social Studies. He teaches courses on Research Methods, Human Rights and Development, and Technology and Human Rights. His research interests include interdisciplinary legal studies, legal and political theory, human rights law, technology and human rights, comparative constitutionalism, and legal education in India.



**Neeraj Grover** holds an LL.M. from National University of Singapore. He teaches courses on Foundations of Private Law, Law and Development, and Comparative Corporate Governance. His research interests include conflict of laws, corporate governance, contracts and international commercial arbitration.



**Kanika Gauba** holds an LL.M. from National Law University, Delhi. She teaches courses on Constitutional and Administrative Foundations of State Institutions in India, and Law and the Nation. Her research interests include constitutional theory, comparative constitutionalism, and postcolonial theory.



**Anshuman Singh** holds an LL.M. from National Law University, Delhi. He teaches courses on Research Methods, Law and Social Transformation, Law and Literature, and Law Politics and Popular Culture. His research interests include areas of intersections between jurisprudence and orthodox Marxism.



**Varsha Aithala** holds an M.C.L. from University of Cambridge. She teaches courses on Foundations of Private Law, and Legal System Reforms. Her research interests include contract law, corporate law, legal education and law practice.

# FACULTY



**Abhay Raj** holds an LL.M. from Yale University. He teaches courses on Law and Justice in a Globalising World, and Environmental Justice. His research interests include, justice education, ecological and environmental studies, law, technology and ethics.



**Vishnupad** holds a Ph.D. from Columbia University, New York. He teaches courses on Everyday Modern State and Law, Nationalism, and Capitalism. His research interests include political anthropology, law, media and political theology and secularism.



**Siddharth Swaminathan** holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Claremont Graduate University. He teaches courses on Research Design, and Inferential Methods. His research interests include urban citizenship, public opinion, and political demography.



**Srikrishna Ayyangar** holds a Ph.D. from Maxwell School at Syracuse University. He teaches courses on Public Policy, Implementation Theory, and Comparative Politics. His research interests include populism theory in India and elsewhere, implementation studies and on governance.



**A. Narayana** holds a Ph.D. from University of Sussex. He teaches a range of core and elective courses on state, policy, and governance. His research interests include regional politics, land governance, local governance, and electronic governance.



**The University is a member and active participant of:  
The Asian Law Institute, National University of Singapore.  
<https://law.nus.edu.sg/asli>**

**The Law and Development Research Network.  
<https://lawdev.org>  
and has collaborations for faculty and student exchanges with University  
of Victoria (Canada), and Humboldt University (Germany)**

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