

Notification

Notification for Admission to the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Programme for the Academic Year: 2026-27

Day & Date: Friday, 14 August 2026

Ref No: GNLU/PHD/2026/01

Gujarat National Law University invites applications in the prescribed form for admission to the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Programme for the Academic Year 2026-27 in the following disciplines:

(1) PhD in Law

(2) PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies with Law

Sr No	Discipline / Domain	# Seats	Mode of Enrolment
PhD in Law			
1	Law	36	18 - Full Time 18 - Part Time
PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies with Law*			
1	Botany	1	Full Time/Part Time
2	Economics	3	Full Time/Part Time
3	Forensic Science	3	Full Time/Part Time
4	History	2	Full Time/Part Time
5	Management	3	Full Time/Part Time
6	Political Science	1	Full Time/Part Time
7	Social Work	4	Full Time/Part Time
8	Sociology	2	Full Time/Part Time

Note:

- (a) # The afore-stated number of seats is tentative. The final number of seats will be notified on the University website.

- (b) The University reserves the right to decide the number of eligible candidates to be called for the Research Proposal Presentation and Interview, based on the availability of seats and PhD Supervisors.
- (c) *‘Interdisciplinary Study with Law’ means a research study conducted by a PhD scholar in two or more academic disciplines, wherein Law is a mandatory allied discipline. For an ‘Interdisciplinary Study with Law’, a Co-Supervisor from the Law Discipline shall also be allocated.

1. Eligibility Criteria for Admission to the PhD Programme (Eligibility Criteria of Qualifying Degree)

The following are eligible to seek admission to the PhD programme:

- (a) Candidates applying for admission to the ‘**PhD in Law**’ Programme must possess a **Master’s Degree in Law** from any University recognised by the UGC, with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed; OR equivalent qualification from a foreign educational institution accredited by an assessment and accreditation agency which is approved, recognised or authorised by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country to assess, accredit or assure quality and standards of the educational institution. A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the UGC from time to time.
- (b) Candidates applying for admission to the ‘**PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies with Law**’ Programme must possess a Master’s Degree in the Principal Area of Research from any University recognised by the UGC, with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed; OR equivalent qualification from a foreign educational institution accredited by an assessment and accreditation agency which is approved, recognised or authorised by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country to assess, accredit or assure quality and standards of the educational institution. A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the UGC from time to time. *Illustration:* A candidate intending to pursue PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies with Law (Interdisciplinary Research: ‘Economics as the Principal Area’ and ‘Law as the Allied Area’) and applies for admission under the ‘PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies with Law’ Programme must possess a Master’s Degree in Economics or any other qualifying Master’s Degree as enumerated in the explanation hereinbelow provided (for the purpose of being

eligible to pursue PhD Programme in Economics).

- (c) Candidates in their final year of study in the respective Master's degrees are eligible to apply, subject to their securing the minimum marks or equivalent grade prior to the date of admission to the PhD Programme.

Explanations regarding the Qualifying Master's Degree for Candidates applying for admission to the 'PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies with Law' Programme:

- (i) Candidates applying for admission to the 'PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies with Law' Programme in '**Botany**' as the Principal Area of research, must possess any of the following Master's degrees:
- MSc (Botany) / MSc (Plant Science) / MSc (Ecology) / MSc (Plant Biotechnology) / MSc (Forestry)
- (ii) Candidates applying for admission to the 'PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies with Law' Programme in '**Economics**' as the Principal Area of research, must possess any of the following Master's degrees:
- MA (Economics) / MSc (Economics) / MA (Econometrics) / MSc (Econometrics) / MA (Financial Economics) / MSc (Financial Economics) / MA (Development Studies) / MBA / MA (Law and Economics) / MA (Public Policy)
- (iii) Candidates applying for admission to the 'PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies with Law' Programme in '**Forensic Science**' as the Principal Area of research, must possess any of the following Master's degrees:
- MSc (Forensic Science) / MSc (Cyber Security) / MSc (Nanotechnology) / MSc (Toxicology)
- (iv) Candidates applying for admission to the 'PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies with Law' Programme in '**History**' as the Principal Area of research, must possess a Master's degree in History.
- (v) Candidates applying for admission to the 'PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies with Law' Programme in '**Management**' as the Principal Area of research, must possess any of the following Master's degrees:
- MBA / MMS (Master of Management Studies) / MCom
 - CA (Chartered Accountant) / CS (Company Secretary) / CMA (Cost and Management Accounting) / ICWA (Institute of Cost and Works Accountants) may also apply, provided they have completed a bachelor's degree programme from a recognised University.

- (vi) Candidates applying for admission to the 'PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies with Law' Programme in '**Political Science**' as the Principal Area of research, must possess a Master's degree in Political Science.
- (vii) Candidates applying for admission to the 'PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies with Law' Programme in '**Social Work**' as the Principal Area of research, must possess any of the following Master's degrees:
 - MSW / MA (Social Work)
- (viii) Candidates applying for admission to the 'PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies with Law' Programme in '**Sociology**' as the Principal Area of research, must possess a Master's degree in Sociology.

2. Procedure for Admission

- (a) Admission will be based on the criteria notified by the University, taking into account the reservation policy, as applicable.
- (b) Admission to the PhD programme will be made using the following methods:
 - (i) The University will admit students who qualify for fellowship/scholarship in UGC-NET/UGC-CSIR NET/GATE/CEED and similar National level tests, based on the Presentation (of the proposed research before the Panel for PhD Research Proposal Presentation) and Interview.

And / Or

- (ii) The University will admit students through an Entrance Test [GNLU PhD Admission Test (GPAT-2026)], to be conducted at the level of the University, and based on the Presentation (of the proposed research before the Panel for PhD Research Proposal Presentation) and Interview.
 - a. Students who have secured minimum 50% marks in the GPAT-2026 are eligible to be called for the Presentation (of the proposed research before the Panel for PhD Research Proposal Presentation) and Interview.
 - b. A relaxation of 5% marks will be allowed in the entrance examination for the candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC/differently-abled category, Economically Weaker Section (EWS), and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the UGC from time to time.
- (iii) The University will decide the number of eligible candidates to be called for the Presentation (of the proposed research before the

Panel for PhD Research Proposal Presentation) and Interview — based on the availability of seats.

- (iv) **As part of the Application, candidates are required to submit a Research Proposal of about 3000 words.** For the Presentation (of the proposed research before the Panel for PhD Research Proposal Presentation), candidates will have to present their 'Research Proposal' giving an outline of the proposed research work, with all the essential components of a research study. The Research Proposal must:
- a. contain a tentative title;
 - b. exhibit literature review (demonstrating background research and a thorough awareness and understanding of the relevant literature on the research area);
 - c. identify a research problem/statement of problem;
 - d. determine relevance;
 - e. specify aim and objectives;
 - f. state hypothesis, if any;
 - g. ascertain research questions;
 - h. scope and limitation;
 - i. identify the methodological approach to respond adequately to these research questions; and
 - j. tentative scheme of chapters.

3. Selection Process

For UGC-NET / JRF / UGC-CSIR NET / GATE / CEED qualified candidates (exempted from GPAT 2026):

- (a) Submission of Application.
- (b) Presentation of the research proposal before the Panel for PhD Research Proposal Presentation, and Interview.
- (c) Declaration of provisional selection list for admission to the PhD Degree Programme.

For candidates appearing for GPAT 2026:

- (a) Submission of Application.
- (b) GNLU PhD Admission Test (GPAT-2026).
- (c) Declaration of GNLU PhD Admission Test (GPAT-2026) Result.
- (d) Presentation of the research proposal before the Panel for PhD Research Proposal Presentation, and Interview.
- (e) Declaration of provisional selection list for admission to the PhD Programme.

4. Reservation Policy

The afore-stated number of seats is tentative. The final number of seats will be notified on the University website. Reservation norms, as applicable, will be followed for the purpose of admission to the PhD Programme.

5. Duration of the Programme

- (a) PhD Programme will be for a minimum duration of three (3) years, including course work, and a maximum duration of six (6) years from the date of admission to the PhD programme.
- (b) A maximum of additional two (2) years may be given through a process of re-registration as per the Regulations of the UGC/University; provided, however, that the total period for completion of a PhD programme should not exceed eight (8) years from the date of admission to the PhD programme.

Provided further that female PhD scholars and Persons with Disabilities (having more than 40% disability) may be allowed an additional relaxation of two (2) years; however, the total period for completion of a PhD programme in such cases must not exceed ten (10) years from the date of admission to the PhD programme.

- (c) Female PhD Scholars may be provided Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave for up to 240 days in the entire duration of the PhD programme.

6. Types of Scholars

Scholars will be registered for the PhD Programme either as 'Full-Time' or 'Part-Time' Scholar.

- (a) A full-time scholar has to attend the University regularly and will be subject to the prescribed attendance rules of the University.
- (b) Professionally employed personnel may be allowed to pursue PhD on a part-time mode. Part-Time Scholars shall have to attend the classes for assigned course-work as per the rules of the University/UGC. Such candidates are required to submit a 'No Objection Certificate' from their parent organisation/department/employer clearly stating the following:
 - (i) that he/she is permitted to pursue PhD studies on a part-time mode;
 - (ii) that his/her duties permit him/her to devote sufficient time for research; and
 - (iii) whenever required, he/she will be relieved from the duty to complete the course work.

7. Course Work

- (a) All registered Full-Time and Part-Time PhD Scholars shall undertake course work as per the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of PhD Degree) Regulations, 2022.
- (b) The Credit requirement for the PhD coursework is a minimum of 12 credits, including a “Research and Publication Ethics” course as notified by UGC vide D.O. No. F.1- 1/2018(Journal/CARE) in 2019 and a research methodology course.
- (c) A PhD scholar must obtain a minimum of 55% marks or its equivalent grade in the UGC 10-point scale in the course work to be eligible to continue in the PhD programme and submit his or her thesis.

8. Important Dates

- (a) Last date for submitting the Online Application Form : **05 September 2026 (Saturday)**
- (b) Date of the GNLU PhD Admission Test (GPAT-2026), GNLU Gandhinagar : **18 September 2026 (Friday)**
- (c) Date for the PhD Research Proposal Presentation and Interview, GNLU Gandhinagar)* * : **19 Sept - 21 Sept 2026**
** Date and Time will be communicated to shortlisted candidates, and are subject to change.

9. Format of Admission Test, and Presentation and Interview

Description	Admission Test	Research Proposal Presentation and Interview
Duration	60 Minutes	15 Minutes
Mode	Multiple Choice Questions (100 Questions)	Power Point Presentation
Focus Areas	Paper I: Research Methodology & English (50 Questions) Paper II: Subject Awareness •Domain Knowledge (50 Questions)	The Research Proposal Presentation must: 1. contain a tentative title; 2. exhibit literature review (demonstrating background research and a thorough awareness and understanding of the relevant literature on the research area); 3. identify a research problem/statement of problem;

		4. determine relevance; 5. specify aim and objectives; 6. state hypothesis, if any; 7. ascertain research questions; 8. scope and limitation; 9. identify the methodological approach to respond adequately to these research questions; and 10. tentative scheme of chapters.
Syllabus	UGC NET syllabus for both Paper I: Research Methodology and English (50 Questions) and Paper II: Subject Awareness (50 Questions).	

10. Fee Structure for the Academic Year 2026

Fee Structure for the PhD Degree Programme*		
Fees	Full Time	Part Time
Admission Fee	Rs. 5,000	Rs. 5,000
Non-Refundable Security Deposit/ Alumni Fund	Rs. 15,000	Rs. 15,000
Total (one time)	Rs. 20,000	Rs. 20,000
Semester Fee		
Semester Fee	Rs. 50,000	Rs. 50,000
Semester Fee – NRI & Foreign National	4000 USD	4000 USD
Infrastructure Maintenance Fee (Per Annum)	Rs. 28,000	NA
Examination Fee (Per Semester)	Rs. 6,000	Rs. 6,000
Academic Facility Fee (Library, Computer, Internet, Training, etc.) (Per Annum)	Rs. 18,000	Rs. 18,000
Hall of Residence, Mess and other related Fees (facility not provided during vacation period, rooms are provided on sharing basis)** If applicable (Per Annum)	Rs. 87,000	NA
Extra-Curricular, Adventure, Sports and Gymnasium, Social and Cultural Activities, Welfare Fee (Per Annum)	Rs. 3,000	NA
Total	Rs. 192,000	Rs. 74,000

Total Fees	Rs. 212,000	Rs. 94,000
Total Fees for Foreign Student	4000 USD + Rs. 1,62,000	4000 USD + Rs. 44,000
PhD Thesis Evaluation Fees of Rs. 40,000 will be required to be paid while submitting the final Thesis.		
*Subject to change as per the decision of the Finance Committee/ Executive Council of the University.		
**Hostel rooms will be allotted on the basis of availability.		

11. Application Form and Fees Payment

The candidates who are interested in seeking admission to the PhD Programme may apply directly by submitting the ONLINE Admission Form and by paying the Application Fee of **INR 4,000/-** (non-refundable) through the following links:

Link for Admission Form: <https://forms.gle/MZwDnztqGuL8yt9TA>

Link for the Payment of Admission Application Fees:
<https://rzp.io/rzp/WHNsl6Vk>

12. General Instructions to the Candidates

- (1) Submitted Application Forms will be screened, and candidates found eligible will be intimated for appearing in the GNLU PhD Admission Test (GPAT-2026).
- (2) Candidates applying for admission to the 'PhD in Law' Programme shall not be considered for admission to the 'PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies with Law' Programme. Similarly, candidates applying for admission to the 'PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies with Law' Programme shall not be considered for admission to the 'PhD in Law' Programme.
- (3) Candidates applying for admission to the 'PhD in Law' Programme as 'Full Time' scholar shall not be considered for admission to the 'PhD in Law' under 'Part Time' category. Similarly, candidates applying for admission to the 'PhD in Law' Programme as 'Part Time' scholar shall not be considered for admission to the 'PhD in Law' under 'Full Time' category.
- (4) Candidates shall ensure fulfillment of their eligibility conditions and full compliance with this Admission Notification.
- (5) As part of the Application process, candidates are required to submit a Research Proposal of about 3000 words, as hereinabove stated.
- (6) Part-Time Scholars are required to submit a 'No Objection Certificate' from their parent organisation/department/employer clearly stating the following: (1) that he/she is permitted to pursue PhD studies on a part-time mode; (2) that his/her

duties permit him/her to devote sufficient time for research; and (3) whenever required, he/she will be relieved from the duty to complete the course work.

- (7) Scanned copy of all relevant qualifying degrees, whichever is applicable, along with mark sheets, must be uploaded by the candidates, while submitting the Application Form.
- (8) In the case of foreign candidates, an Equivalency Certificate is required to be produced by the candidate, while applying for admission to the PhD in Law.
- (9) Upon qualifying in the GNLU PhD Admission Test (GPAT-2026), successful candidates, as also the NET/JRF qualified candidates, will be called for the Research Proposal Presentation, and Interview.
- (10) Upon declaration of the result by the University (based on the Research Proposal Presentation and Interview), the candidate will be permitted to take admission and register for the PhD Programme on payment of the prescribed fee.
- (11) PhD course work is mandatory for all PhD scholars.
- (12) GNLU PhD course work and PhD Thesis shall be in the English language only.

**Sd/-
Registrar**