

NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad
Centre for Aerospace and Defence Laws (CADL)
M.A. (Aviation Law and Air Transport Management)
M.A. (Security and Defence Laws)
M.A. (Space and Telecommunication Laws)
II Year – IV Semester
Academic Year: 2021-2022, Batch 2020-2022

GUIDELINES FOR DISSERTATION

The main objectives of the dissertation component are to assess the research and writing skills of the students as well as to provide a platform for creative legal scholarship and can be refined and submitted for publication in scholarly journals or even serve as the basis for full-length dissertations in doctoral programmes.

Topic Selection: Initial Dissertation Proposal

The students are free to select their Dissertation Topic voluntarily but it should be relevant to their field of course.

For the purposes of finalization of the Dissertation Topics, the candidates are required to first submit a **1000 words** Dissertation Proposal indicating a proposed Research Scheme. The Research Proposal should contain the following sub-chapters:

- Introduction of the Dissertation Topic: The researcher is required to introduce the subject and the issue involved in brief.
- Statement of Problem: The researcher is required to explain the debatable issue involved in a research topic. Such issues could be single or multiple. A Statement of Problem is basically a statement that illustrates a clear vision and the overall method that will be used to solve the problem at hand. Usually used when doing research, a problem statement discusses any foreseeable tangible or intangible problems that the researcher may face throughout the course of the project.
- Research Questions: A research question is an answerable inquiry into a specific concern or issue. It is the initial step in a research project. The 'initial step' means after you have an idea of what you want to study, the research question is the first active step in the research project.
- Hypothesis: A research hypothesis is the statement created by researchers when they speculate upon the outcome of a research or experiment. It is an assumption with which the researcher begins its research and throughout the research paper, the researcher

should seek to prove or disprove the hypothesis.

- **Scope of Study:** The researcher is required to identify the broad framework within which the study is designed. The researcher may also highlight the limitations of the study within this segment.
- **Objective of Study:** The researcher has to identify the aims and objective of the study i.e. what the researcher
- **Research Methodology:** The method that the researcher adopts to conduct a research i.e. doctrinal or non-doctrinal or empirical. The researcher has to state along with the method the justification of using the method in a research paper / project. Please note that the researcher can use a combination of both the methods as long as the researcher is able to justify the usage of the combined method.
- **Literature Review:** The researcher has to go through the existing materials (both primary and secondary) and provide a review or assessment of the existing literature. This section is not mandatory.
- **Tentative Chapterization:** The researcher is required to briefly state how the researcher intends to go about the research. The researcher is required to categorize the paper / project into broad chapter and provide a gist of contents that the researcher intends to include in each chapter.

Upon scrutinizing the initial dissertation proposal, the course-coordinator will either approve or reject the proposal. In the event of rejection/modification of the proposed Research Proposal, the candidate will have to re-submit another Research Proposal incorporating the suggested changes within a stipulated time fixed by the course-coordinator.

Dissertation Plagiarism:

- The research projects should be a complete original work of the student. The maximum limit for **plagiarism is 15%** and if any dissertation is found to be in excess of this prescribed limit then the concerned student would be asked to re-do their project.
- One student should work individually on one Dissertation. Co-authored or multiple authored projects will not be accepted.
- Any alternation or change in the approved for dissertation can be allowed but subject to prior approval of the Centre Director i.e. Prof. Dr. V. Balakista Reddy. While proposing a new topic please ensure that the topic has not been already allotted.

Preparatory tasks, format and length of Dissertations:

The dissertation should be in the following format:

- Cover Page
- Certificate by supervisor
- Declaration by student
- Acknowledgements
- Table of Contents
- Index of Authorities (Statutes/Judgments/Other official sources)
- List of Abbreviations (If required)
- Introduction
- Methodology (Statement of Problem, Research Questions, Hypothesis, Scope and Limitations, Objectives, Methodology, Literature Review, Chapterization)
- Main body of dissertation (Broken down into Chapters or Parts)
- Conclusion
- Bibliography (Books – Scholarly articles – Articles from news sources – Internet sources)
- The aggregate length of the main body of the dissertation should be between **100-120 Pages**.

Submission of Dissertations:

The candidates are required to submit the dissertation to Supervisor, a rough draft within 30 days from the date of confirmation of the Initial Dissertation Proposal. Upon incorporation of the modifications, if any, suggested by the supervisor, the candidates within stipulated time are required to submit Two (2) Final Copies of the Dissertation. These are then forwarded to external examiners for the purpose of evaluation.

Evaluation of Dissertation:

The written Dissertation will carry a total of 150 marks which will be followed by a viva-voce carrying 50 marks.

Footnoting Styles:

You are required to follow the footnoting style as prescribed by the University i.e., Bluebook 19th edition.

Check List for Researcher:

Before making the final submission the researcher must check whether their research paper / project has achieved the following:

- Does the research work develop a new concept? Is it original?

- Is the research methodology appropriate and sound? Is it a new methodology or an improvement over existing methodology?
- Does it present a new solution/analysis to a significant problem?
- Does it enhance understanding of existing situation / problem or generate new hypotheses or provide directions for future research?
- Does it discuss practical implications and provide a framework to implement suggestions?
- Is the presentation lucid and scholarly?
- Is it a significant contribution?

Other things to remember:

- Foreign Words should be italicized. Eg: *Sui generis, ipso facto, de facto*.
- Direct Quotations should be used in double quotes (“ ”)
- Please do not number paragraphs
- Please do not have additional decorative cover pages pictures or borders.
- Please do not get emotional in the research papers / project. Your arguments and opinions should be supported by reasons and justifications.
- **SUBMISSION BEYOND DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- All submissions shall be made online and send to cadlassignments@nalsar.ac.in before the designated date and time.
- For any queries related to project topics you may contact us at:
cadlassignments@nalsar.ac.in