



NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad

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ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR 'THE SHIRIN PAUL Ph.D. SCHOLARSHIP IN ANIMAL LAWS' (2025-26)

Last Date to Apply: 30th October 2025

Online Entrance Examination Date: 15th November 2025

[Click here to submit application form](#)

NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, an institution of eminence in the field of legal education and research, is a residential University established by the NALSAR University Act, 1998 (Act 34 of 1998), which is committed to innovation in legal education whilst expanding the frontiers of legal research. Taking an interdisciplinary approach towards legal research, the University encourages students to examine the social moorings of law and the relevance of social science methodologies for legal research.

With the generous support of the Shirin Paul Foundation, NALSAR University of Law is offering the Shirin Paul PhD Scholarship for Animal Law. The Shirin Paul PhD Scholarship aims to produce credible research and fill critical gaps in data to advance impactful legal and policy outcomes for farmed animals in India. The scholarship is being established to provide scholarships to researchers to undertake PhD research in animal law and carry forward the enduring legacy of the Late Mrs Shirin Paul.

Vision

- **Independent, robust, high-quality research:** Scholars are supported by providing access to global mentors, world-class resources, and a dynamic intellectual community for meaningful and lasting impact.
- **Bridge a critical knowledge gap within academia:** The Shirin Paul PhD Scholarship is designed to recognize the pivotal role of animal law in advancing social justice and addressing the triple planetary crisis. It invites aspiring PhD and educators to cultivate a body of scholarship that engages with India's unique socio-legal landscape, fostering rigorous research and legal reform.

Eligibility for Admission

- Candidates who have obtained a Master's Degree or equivalent qualifications in Law or Humanities or Social Sciences or other cognate disciplines from any recognized University or Autonomous Institution securing not less than 55% marks or its equivalent.
- Candidates with Postgraduate/ Advanced Diploma or Masters in Animal Protection Laws from NALSAR will be preferred.
- A demonstrable interest in animal welfare or social work is required.

Note: In case of candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes/ Other Backward Classes (Non-creamy layer) / Persons with disabilities / EWS the requirement of marks at Master's Degree is 50% or its equivalent. The University shall adhere to University Grants Commission's Guidelines as decided from time to time.

Number of Seats

The University has one vacancy for Animal Law. The University is especially seeking proposals in new and emerging areas which may have a cross-cutting focus on intersecting areas in Animal Law with Humanities, Social Sciences and other cognate disciplines. The topic selected should be such that it enables the candidate to make an original contribution to knowledge.

The following areas are recommended for conducting research under the fellowship. Besides completion of the PhD as per the University rules, the selected scholar is expected to deliver additional research outputs, the details of which are provided in Appendix 1.

- (a) Fish Welfare Policy Research
- (b) Gaps in Regulation of Piggeries and Dairy Industry
- (c) Humane Education and National Education Policy (NEP) Values

Themes beyond the suggested themes listed below may be explored.

Admissions against the aforesaid vacancy shall only be made if a research proposal is found to be satisfactory and suitable. The University reserves the right not to fill the advertised seats if the Research Board does not find the requisite number of research-worthy proposals. Similarly, the University may admit more candidates if the Research Board finds proposals correlating with the University's research agenda. NALSAR encourages, promotes and incubates new and exciting research in emerging and interdisciplinary areas.

The University adheres to the national-level reservation policy in its admissions.

Fee and Examination Date

1. Submission of Online Application Form along with registration fee of Rs. 2000/- (Rs. 1000/- of SC & ST) and required documents. The last date of submission is 30th October, 2025.
2. In order to obtain admission, candidates have to appear in a written entrance exam. This year, the three-and-a-half-hour **exam shall be conducted online on 15th November, 2025** from **10:00 a.m.**

Exemption from the written Examination

Applicants who have been declared qualified in the UGC-NET/ UGC-CSIR NET (including JRF) in their respective disciplines are exempted from writing the entrance examination.

Procedure for Admission

1. The admission process has two stages: first, a written examination, which in turn has two parts, part one testing general writing skills and research aptitude, and part two testing the disciplinary knowledge, that is, in law or social sciences and humanities, as applicable to the candidate's basic qualifications.

The written examination details are as given below:

TOTAL MARKS: 100

Component	Weightage	Time / Duration
1. Research Aptitude and Writing Skill	50 %	1.5 Hrs.
2. Disciplinary Knowledge (Animal Laws)	50 %	2 Hr.

In the first component, the examination will test the research and writing aptitude of the candidates through MCQs, essays, comprehension and précis writing.

In the second component, candidates will also be tested on their ability to write professionally and in accordance with established norms of scholarship through questions which test the candidate's domain knowledge as well as the where, what and how of referencing. The candidate's domain knowledge will be tested in the field of:

- Animal Laws

The model test paper can be downloaded here.

2. To be considered for the second stage of the admission process, the candidate must secure 50% of the marks in the written examination. However, the University may decide on a higher cut-off mark depending on the number of applicants and the number of seats available each year.
3. The applicants who are qualified in the written examination and also those who are exempted from writing the entrance test are required to submit a preliminary research proposal (between 1500-2000 words or approximately 8 typed double spaced pages, excluding references) with a statement of the research problem and a literature survey which demonstrates that the research topic is unexplored, and an original scholarly contribution can be made on the same.

Guidelines for writing the preliminary proposal are given here

The applicants are advised to review Appendix 1 carefully to ensure **that they are submitting proposals aligned with The Shirin Paul Scholarship research agenda and recommended topics. Duplication of topics could result in their not being invited for an interview, so applicants are advised to access the Website link for registered topics, [click here](#).**

4. The preliminary research proposals will be scrutinized for plagiarism. If the similarity index for any proposal exceeds 15%, excluding appropriately cited sources, then the applicants will not be called for the interview. Similarly, applicants making proposals on topics already registered with the University may not be called for the interview.

5. The applicants whose preliminary proposals have passed the plagiarism test and have been found to be researchable areas by the University Research Board only will be invited for an interview. By no means, a candidate whose proposal is rejected due to plagiarism above 15% and/or whose preliminary proposal has been rejected by the University Research Board can claim a slot in the interview.
6. The applicants who are qualified in the interview will be provisionally admitted to the Ph.D. program.
7. Each candidate shall have a Research Advisory Committee (RAC), consisting of the principal Supervisor, appointed by the University Research Board and two experts nominated by the Supervisor and the candidate, respectively.
8. The selected candidate will compulsorily undergo the University coursework which includes a Foundational Research Methodology course. After successful completion of the University coursework, the candidate will additionally require to participate in Ahimsa Fellowship coursework through in person contact classes and assigned fieldwork. upon completion of both the components of the coursework, the candidate will be required to defend the modified proposal before the entire Faculty.
9. The Shirin Paul Scholar will enjoy open access to all NALSAR University libraries and subscriptions, accommodation at the University hostels, University recreational facilities, a desk and shared office space at the Animal Law Centre, and a university email drive.
10. The Shirin Paul Scholar must enrol as a full-time student of the NALSAR PhD program and reside on campus for at least four months in every academic year.
11. The scholarship will be provided for three years only. If the Shirin Paul Scholar chooses to extend the research into the fourth year, the scholar may consider seeking assistance from the University.
12. **Publications:** The Shirin Paul Scholar must publish at least two papers in Scopus-indexed journals, present their research at a minimum of three conferences, as well as publish editorials, opinion pieces, or data stories in digital or print media channels to disseminate research findings.

Industry or Policy Partnerships: The Shirin Paul Scholar will work in collaboration with Ahimsa Fellows and the Animal Law Centre partner organizations to identify bottlenecks in litigation, advocacy, or corporate campaigns.
13. The candidates who qualify in the entrance test but fail in the interview shall be given a second opportunity to submit their proposal on the basis of the recommendation of the Research Board without needing to reappear for the entrance exam.
14. Candidates pursuing the Ph.D. program may assist in the teaching or research activities of the University.

Fee Structure for the Academic Year 2025-26

S. No.	HEADS	AMOUNT
1	Registration fee to be paid along with Application	Rs. 2,000/- (Rs. 1,000/- for SC/ST)
2	Admission Fee	Rs. 10,000/-
3	Tuition Fee	Rs. 20,000/- (one time to be paid at the time of admission)
4	Retention Fee for every completed six months	Rs. 1,000/-
5	Library Fee	Rs. 5,000/- p.a.
6	Internet Fee	Rs. 8,000/- p.a.
7	Thesis Fee	Rs. 12,000/-
8	Re-registration Fee	Rs. 2,500/- p.a.
REFUNDABLE DEPOSITS		
15	Library Deposit	Rs. 5,000/-
16	Mess Deposit	Rs. 5,000/-
17	Hostel Deposit	Rs. 10,000/- (Rs. 4,000/- for SC / ST)

Note:

During the stay on campus the scholar will have to pay the hostel rent and food charges and other miscellaneous charges on pro-rata basis, as per the university rules.

All correspondence relating to admissions should be addressed to the Registrar - registrar@nalsar.ac.in and a copy marked to phdadmissions@nalsar.ac.in

REGISTRAR (I/c)

APPENDIX I

Beyond the PhD dissertation, the fellowship requires the production of several additional research outputs. These may include, but are not limited to, a policy brief, white paper, report on best practices, guidelines or a model code, and a framework or toolkit. The successfully graduated fellow will become part of the Shirin Paul Scholars Network, an alumni network where they may have the opportunity, with supervisor approval, to mentor postgraduate and undergraduate students and guide their research proposals. Additionally, in collaboration with the Shirin Paul Foundation, the fellow will organize an annual Shirin Paul Lecture Series to convene thought leaders and showcase work enabled by the scholarship. The PhD topic may be formulated along the lines of the following:

1. Fish Welfare Policy Research

- i. Policy Brief/White Paper: Propose integrating fish welfare into India's aquaculture and inland fisheries policies (e.g., Blue Revolution, National Fisheries Policy).
- ii. Report on Best Practices: Compare fish welfare regulations from key fish-producing countries and suggest feasible proposals for India.
- iii. Guidelines/Model Code: Develop humane handling, transport, and slaughter guidelines for farmed fish for state-level implementation.
- iv. Pilot Study: Analyze implementation barriers like costs, consumer demand, and scalability.
- v. Bridging science and law: Study fish sentience and welfare needs of commonly farmed Indian species, grounded in local ecological and legal contexts.

2. (b) Gaps in Regulation of Piggeries and Dairy Industry

- vi. Impact Assessment Framework/Toolkit: Develop a holistic framework evaluating animal welfare, environmental sustainability, public health risks, and socio-economic equity across dairy and piggery operations.
- vii. Pilot Study: Examine implementation gaps, enforcement challenges, and impacts of existing laws in the piggery and dairy sectors.
- viii. Report on Best Practices: Analyze best practices or pilot projects demonstrating pathways to higher-welfare, lower-environmental-footprint, and economically viable dairy and piggery systems.
- ix. Policy Brief/White Paper: Propose evidence-based recommendations for harmonizing policies across agriculture, environment, and health sectors, including support for smallholder farmers.

3. Humane Education and National Education Policy (NEP) Values

- x. Socio-Legal Study: Investigate pathways, barriers, and enablers for integrating humane education to cultivate an understanding of farmed animal welfare issues and related environmental social impacts into state-level curricula, with input from government institutions.
- xi. Pilot Study: Measure the impact of humane education on students' empathy for farmed animals, moral reasoning, or civic behavior across 2-3 states.
- xii. Framework/Toolkit: Develop a toolkit for integrating humane education with a focus on farmed animals

into school curricula aligned with NEP 2020 and National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023 (NCFSE).

- xiii. Policy Brief: Advise NCERT/SCERT on adopting farmed animal-inclusive, value-based content.
- xiv. Guidelines/Model Code: Link humane education and farmed animal protection to constitutional values (Article 51A(g)), educational psychology, and long-term civic outcomes.