



NIRMA
UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTE OF LAW

NAAC ACCREDITED 'A+' GRADE

Institutional Development Plan (2025-2030)



Institute of Law
Nirma University

Executive Summary

The Institutional Development Plan (IDP) for the Institute of Law, Nirma University, sets out a broad strategic outline from 2025 to 2030. The plan is structured to address challenges and opportunities in legal education in India, taking into consideration national policy initiatives like NEP 2020, Bar Council of India guidelines, UGC guidelines on one year LL.M programme and Ph.D. programme and international frameworks like UN SDGs and ESG principles.

The Institute aims to mold a more humane future through the creation of socially responsive and competent legal professionals. Its purpose lies in providing high-quality, multidisciplinary legal education that embraces digital change and globalization, promoting inclusivity, equity, and access to justice.

The IDP recognizes the evolving legal climate driven by globalization and advancements in technology. It seeks to address the imperative for regulatory compliance according to the Bar Council of India and to foresee future demands on the legal sector. There is a focus on bringing in multi-disciplinary views and innovative pedagogy with national and international standards.

Strategic Objectives

- Promote Research and Collaborative Scholarship: Improve faculty and Ph.D. scholars' publications, enhance research funding collaborations with state government departments, and reinforce joint efforts through MOUs.
- Modernization of Curriculum: Increase course offerings especially in new legal technologies like AI, cybersecurity, blockchain, and include sustainability and public policy themes relevant to national priorities.
- Student Development and Outreach: Provide 100% internship and fieldwork engagement, increase legal aid clinics and NSS outreach on community legal concerns, and foster student innovation through hackathons and workshops.
- Placement and Alumni Engagement: Enhance relationship with tier-1 law firms and corporates through conclaves and mentorship, enhance placement statistics, and utilize alumni networks for training and hiring.

Key Performance Indicators and Targets

- Two-fold increase in externally funded research studies and major boosts in Scopus-indexed publications by 2030.
- Integration of specialized courses accounting for 25% of the curriculum by external experts.
- Consistent improvement in placement rate to 97% with average salary packages rising steadily.
- Increase in legal aid and outreach programs, with outreach activities doubled by 2030.

The strategy is backed by a budgeted phase of expenditure in research, student assistance, faculty capacity development, and infrastructure, guided by a special committee of various stakeholders. The committee will facilitate monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management through semester reports.

This IDP is committed to the Institute of Law to developing excellence in legal education and research, proactively adapting to changes in society and technology, and making meaningful contributions to national development objectives. It places the Institute in a position to develop well-rounded, capable legal practitioners equipped to address modern and future legal issues.

1. Need of the Institutional Development Plan

Legal education in India is likely to face several challenges between 2025 and 2030. Some of the challenges that it faces includes multi-disciplinary perspective in imparting legal education in India. We also need to study the impact that globalization and digital transformation has brought on legal education to respond to issues related to diversity, equity and access to justice.

2. Process for Development of Institutional Development Plan

ILNU prepared this institutional development plan in a phased manner and it followed a wide-ranging consultative process of meeting with stakeholders. The stake holders consulted for this process include legal academics, legal professionals, industry experts, students, alumni, parents and legal advocacy groups. The consultations were done through online and offline mode. The ILNU IDP committee steered the consultative process. The issues were framed through a careful study of documents published by UGC, UN SDGs, SDG India Index, NEP 2020, NITI Aayog (Strategy for New India @75), and World Economic forum to address the challenges and futures of legal education in the context of global and national development. The deliberations around NIRF rankings (Law) and QS World University rankings (Law and legal studies) provided the roadmap that the institute need to focus.

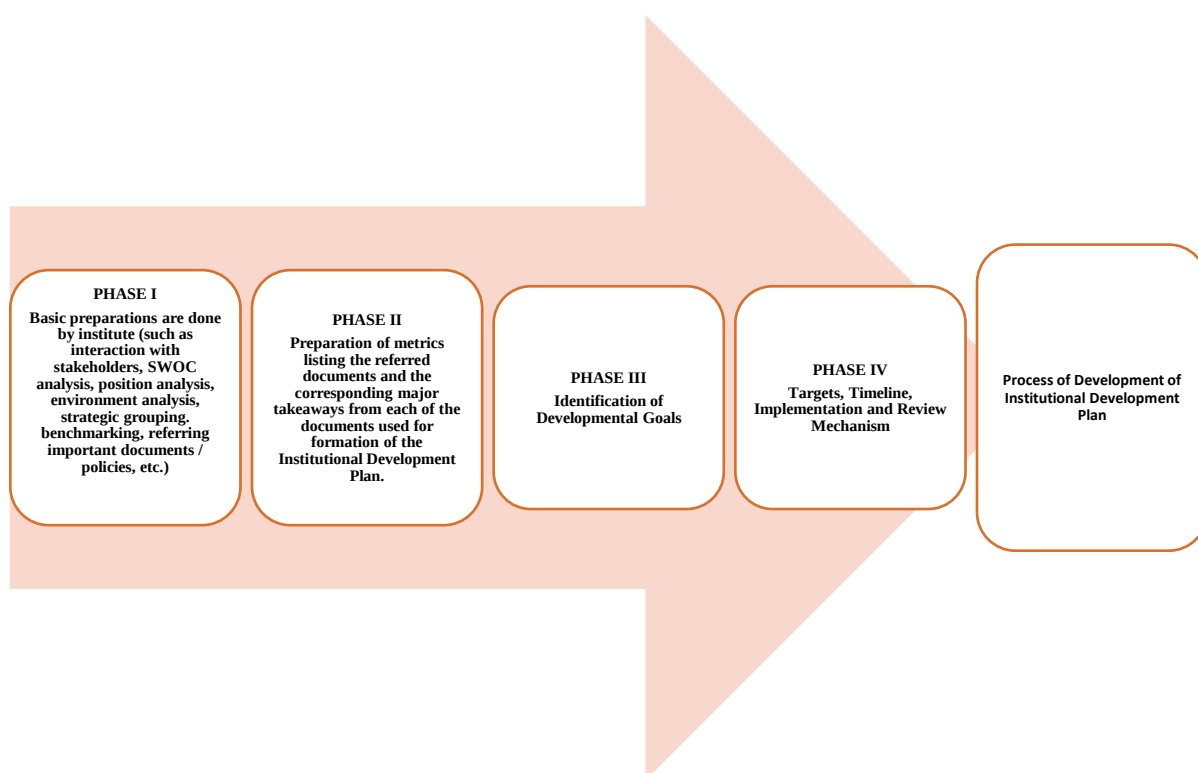


Fig. 1 Phases of Preparation of IDP (2025-30)

3. Environmental Assessment and Analysis (International, National and State Scenario)

ILNU prepared IDP after widespread consultation with different stakeholders and it framed issues and guidelines after carefully analysing Acts, rules, guidelines, reports, documents of various state and non-state institutional and organisational bodies. It studied the environment of legal education in India and abroad through institutions who have consistently ranked higher in the NIRF rankings (Law) and QS World University rankings in the field of law and legal studies. The need was felt to look at specific requirements of legal professionals in the domestic environment at the same time the focus was to look at the global practices in the field of legal education that can be aligned with our regulatory framework.

The strategic plan of leading law schools was referred (Harvard Law School, Columbia Law School, Stanford Law School, Melbourne law school, Yale Law School) for understanding the global practices of pedagogical intervention in teaching and learning both inside and outside of the classrooms. It also highlighted the futuristic directions that these law schools are taking to make their students ready for the need of the global industry.

The IDP looked at the institutional design and practices of teaching, learning and research in leading National Law Schools – NLSIU Bangalore, NLU Delhi, WBNUJS Kolkata, GNLU, Gandhinagar and discovered their focussed areas – strong alumni connect, international collaboration, establishing centres of excellence in core legal areas, promoting student participation in moot court competitions and multidisciplinary legal education.

To understand the needs and challenges of legal education in the country various reports were studied, UGC report on institutional development plan, NEP 2020, NITI Aayog (Strategy for New India @75), SDG India Index to identify key areas of legal education, research and innovation. It was found that these institutional reports identify areas of - Energy Laws, Labour Laws, Land Laws and Laws related to climate change, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Law and Indian Knowledge system, exploratory projects on the intersection of technology and access to justice, programs on environmental law and sustainability practices to adopt these areas into the Indian legal education.

The reports of domestic and international organization were studied, emphasizing on UNSDGs, World economic Forum (Flagship report on 10 emerging technologies of 2024), FICCI and CII reports on sustainability practices and found out their focussed areas – AI, data privacy, cyber security, blockchain, biodiversity conservation, forest conservation, land restoration, climate risk

assessment, decarbonisation, climate adaption, climate resilience and ESG strategy and implementation to be accommodated in our legal education and research.

4. Political, Economic, Social and Technological (PEST) Analysis

Political:

- Recognized and accredited by the Bar Council of India (BCI) and University Grants Commission (UGC), which influences curriculum and quality standards.
- Legal education policies by the Indian government and state governments impact admissions, infrastructure funding, and expansion.
- National legal reforms and regulatory frameworks affect research focus areas.

Economic:

- Situated in Ahmedabad, a growing economic hub, offering opportunities for industry collaboration and internships.
- Affordability and fee structure influence student demographics amidst rising private education costs.
- Employability and placement trends in corporate and litigation sectors affect student choices and program development.

Social:

- Diverse student body attracting candidates from across India and abroad due to strong academic reputation.
- Increasing demand for specialized legal education such as IP law, environmental law, and technology law.
- Growing awareness about legal careers and need for professional skill development.

Technological:

- Incorporation of digital tools, legal research databases, and online learning platforms to enhance pedagogy.
- Focus on emerging fields like intellectual property, IT law, and AI regulation aligns with technological trends.

- Efforts to foster innovation and research through collaborations, journals, and conferences.

5. Developmental Goals: 2025-30

Goal 1: Enhancing Research Excellence Through Strategic Funding, Collaboration, Societal Impact, and Quality Publications.

Goal 2: Strengthening Legal Education and Community Engagement through Strategic Partnerships, Experiential Learning, and Outreach Initiatives.

Goal 3: Advancing Legal Education through Technology Integration, Digital Skill Development, Strategic Cybersecurity Partnerships, and Student Innovation.

Goal 4: Enhancing Industry and Alumni Engagement to Boost Student Readiness and Pre-Placement Outcome.

6. List of Strategies for each Goal: 2025-30

Goal 1: Enhancing Research Excellence Through Strategic Funding, Collaboration, Societal Impact, and Quality Publications

STRATEGY 1.1

To seek external funding from State Government Departments and ICSSR for cross-cutting research projects.

STRATEGY 1.2

To strengthen research collaboration and joint publications with partnering institutions under signed MOUs.

STRATEGY 1.3

To enable issue-oriented research and evidence-based interventions to contribute to the betterment of the society through research publications.

STRATEGY 1.4

To emphasize on quality publications in peer reviewed journals by Ph.D. students.

Goal 2: Strengthening Legal Education and Community Engagement through Strategic Partnerships, Experiential Learning, and Outreach Initiatives

STRATEGY 2.1

Strategic Institutional partnership with the law firms, government and policy makers and alumni networks in teaching Alternate Dispute Resolution, Energy Law, Labour Laws, Land Laws, and Laws related to climate change. (SDG India Index).

STRATEGY 2.2

Facilitate internships and fieldwork opportunities for UG students with organizations involved in sustainability initiatives, environmental conservation, and community development.

STRATEGY 2.3

Increasing the outreach activities through NSS camps.

STRATEGY 2.4

Increasing the outreach activities through Legal Aid Clinic.

Goal 3: Advancing Legal Education through Technology Integration, Digital Skill Development, Strategic Cybersecurity Partnerships, and Student Innovation

STRATEGY 3.1

To introduce and strengthen courses and specializations in law and technology.

STRATEGY 3.2

To enhance Digital Skill Development of UG students.

STRATEGY 3.3

To Conduct Cyber awareness programmes.

STRATEGY 3.4

To encourage student innovation in legal technology.

Goal 4: Enhancing Industry and Alumni Engagement to Boost Student Readiness and Pre-Placement Outcomes

STRATEGY 4.1

Strengthen Engagement with Tiered Legal and Corporate Firms

STRATEGY 4.2

Improve Student Industry Readiness

STRATEGY 4.3

Build Strategic Alumni and Industry Networks

STRATEGY 4.4

Leverage Internships for Pre-Placement Offers (PPOs)

7. Monitoring and Review Mechanisms of Institutional Development Plan and Alignment: Structure and Systems

The Institutional Development Plan committee constituted by the Dean's Office will be overall responsible to monitor, review and implement the objectives, goals, strategies and key performance indicators (KPIs) outlined in the Institutional Development Plan. The committee will submit a thorough report at the end of every semester indicating the deliverables achieved and the challenges faced to implement the plan. The committee while preparing this report has to consult the stakeholders, such as students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, industry representatives / practitioners, area heads, research heads, student clubs and committees and NGOs.