

THE COMPLETE

CLAT Guidebook

YOUR COMPLETE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO CLAT,
NLUs, AND THE ADMISSION PROCESS

FROM YOUR FIRST QUESTION ABOUT CLAT —
TO WALKING INTO AN NLU.

Prepared by Career Launcher – LST



How to Use This Guidebook

Complete Roadmap

This guidebook covers the complete CLAT journey — from understanding the exam to final NLU admission. Begin from the start for a full, structured roadmap.

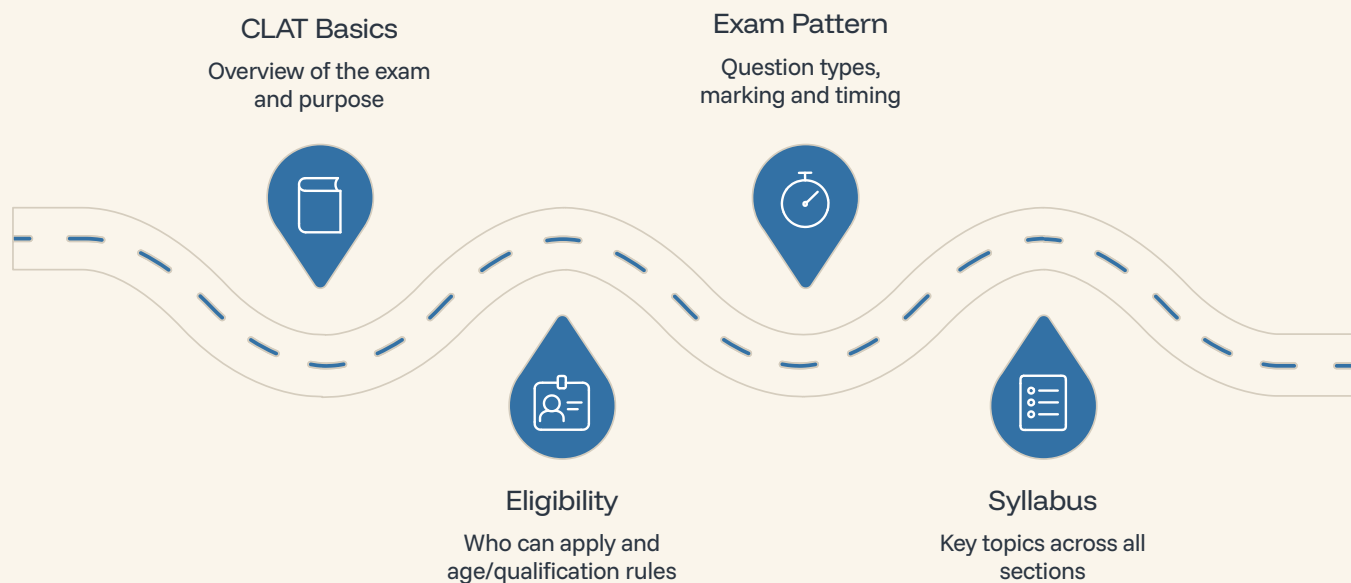
Self-Contained Sections

Each section is self-contained. Jump to any section you need — whether it's eligibility, exam pattern, syllabus, or counselling.

Always Verify Officially

All information is based on the latest officially available CLAT cycle. Always cross-verify from:

consortiumofnlus.ac.in



Follow this guidebook section by section for a complete, structured path from understanding CLAT to securing your NLU seat.

CLAT Basics & Overview

What is CLAT?

CLAT stands for the **Common Law Admission Test**. It is a centralised national-level entrance examination conducted by the **Consortium of National Law Universities** for admission to undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) law programmes at participating National Law Universities across India.

Key Facts at a Glance

- **Conducted By:** Consortium of National Law Universities
- **Frequency:** Once a year
- **Mode:** Online — Computer-Based Test (CBT)
- **Gateway to:** 27 NLUs for UG admission
- **UG Programme:** BA LLB / BBA LLB (Hons.) — 5-year integrated degree
- **PG Programme:** LLM — postgraduate admission (CLAT PG)

Why CLAT Matters

CLAT is the single gateway to **27 National Law Universities** — the gold standard of legal education in India, comparable to IITs for engineering. NLUs offer structured curricula, mandatory moot courts, clinical legal education, and strong placement outcomes.

⚠️ **NLU Delhi (NLU Delhi)** conducts a separate exam called **AILET** and does NOT admit students through CLAT. If you are targeting NLU Delhi, you must register and prepare separately for AILET in addition to CLAT.

CLAT Online Classes · Structured Prep with Expert Guidance

Structured preparation with expert guidance, concept clarity, and consistent support.

[-> Explore CLAT Online Classes ->](#)

Eligibility Criteria

BASED ON LATEST OFFICIALLY AVAILABLE CLAT CYCLE — VERIFY FROM OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION

Academic Qualification

Candidates must have passed or be appearing in the **Class 12 (10+2)** examination from a recognised board. Candidates appearing in the qualifying examination in the same year are also eligible to apply, subject to submitting proof of passing at the time of admission.

Minimum Marks

General / OBC / PWD / NRI / Other: 45% aggregate in Class 12

SC / ST: 40% aggregate in Class 12

These percentages are as per the latest officially available cycle. Always verify from the official CLAT brochure.

No Upper Age Limit

As per the latest officially available CLAT cycle, there is **NO upper age limit** for CLAT UG. Droppers and older candidates are fully eligible to apply, subject to meeting the academic qualification requirement.

Additional Eligibility Notes

- Candidates appearing in Class 12 in the same year may apply **provisionally**. Admission is subject to producing the final Class 12 marksheet at the time of joining the NLU.
- **NRI / foreign national eligibility** is as specified in the official brochure. Candidates with disabilities (PwD) are eligible and may be entitled to reservation as per applicable rules.
- Each NLU may have **institution-specific reservation policies** (domicile, in-state, etc.) — verify from individual NLU websites.

CLAT Exam Pattern

BASED ON LATEST OFFICIALLY AVAILABLE CLAT CYCLE — CLAT 2026

Exam Parameters

Mode of Exam	Online — Computer-Based Test (CBT)
Duration	2 hours (120 minutes)
Total Questions	120 questions
Total Marks	120 marks
Correct Answer	+1 mark
Negative Marking	-0.25 (1/4 mark) per incorrect answer
Question Type	MCQs based on comprehension / reading passages
Language	English

Section-wise Distribution

Section	Questions	Weightage
English Language	22–26	~20%
Current Affairs incl. GK	28–32	~25%
Legal Reasoning	28–32	~25%
Logical Reasoning	22–26	~20%
Quantitative Techniques	10–14	~10%
Total	~120	100%

i CLAT UG consists of five sections. Each section is passage-based — questions test reading, analysis, and reasoning skills rather than rote knowledge. Exact section-wise question count may vary slightly across cycles.

📄 Tie-Breaker Rules: In case of equal scores, the Consortium applies tie-breaker criteria as specified in the official notification. Always refer to the official brochure for the exact tie-breaking mechanism applicable to your cycle.

CLAT Syllabus: Section-wise

The CLAT UG syllabus is **comprehension-based**. No section tests isolated facts in isolation. Reading, reasoning, and applying logic to passages is the core skill tested.

1	<p>English Language</p> <p>Tests: Reading comprehension, vocabulary in context, grammar, verbal reasoning</p> <p>Format: Unseen passages (~450 words) followed by 4–5 questions each</p> <p>Key Tip: Develop habit of reading quality English — newspapers, editorials, analytical essays</p>
2	<p>Current Affairs incl. GK</p> <p>Tests: Awareness of current events and static GK as applied to passages</p> <p>Format: Passages based on recent national/international events, judgements, policies</p> <p>Key Tip: Read a quality national daily; maintain notes on major events</p>
3	<p>Legal Reasoning</p> <p>Tests: Ability to read and apply legal principles — NOT prior legal knowledge</p> <p>Format: Passages containing a legal rule/principle followed by factual scenarios</p> <p>Key Tip: Focus on applying the given principle logically — do not bring outside legal knowledge</p>
4	<p>Logical Reasoning</p> <p>Tests: Analytical and deductive reasoning from given information</p> <p>Format: Short passages, arguments, or statements followed by reasoning questions</p> <p>Key Tip: Practice identifying the structure of arguments; avoid outside assumptions</p>
5	<p>Quantitative Techniques</p> <p>Tests: Basic numeracy and data interpretation</p> <p>Format: Short sets of data, graphs, or numerical problems</p> <p>Key Tip: ~10% weightage — aim for accuracy; do not neglect this section</p>



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CLAT Preparation Roadmap

There is no single formula for CLAT success. The roadmap below is a general framework based on the nature of the exam. Adapt it to your current level and available time.



Phase 1 — Foundation

- Understand the exam: Read the official syllabus and pattern thoroughly
- Build reading habits: Start reading a quality English newspaper daily
- Assess your baseline: Attempt a diagnostic mock to identify your starting point
- Clear Class 10-level maths: Brush up ratios, percentages, averages



Phase 2 — Structured Practice

- Work section by section: Spend focused time on each of the 5 sections
- Legal Reasoning: Practice passage-based questions; learn to apply given principles
- Logical Reasoning: Solve argument and assumption-based sets regularly
- Current Affairs: Maintain a monthly summary; understand context rather than memorise



Phase 3 — Mock Tests & Analysis

- Start full-length mock tests under timed conditions
- Analyse every mock: Identify error patterns — comprehension, carelessness, or speed
- Negative marking discipline: Avoid guessing unless you can eliminate at least 2 options
- Attempt-accuracy balance: CLAT rewards accuracy, not just volume of attempts



Phase 4 — Revision & Final Stretch

- Revise Current Affairs: Focus on last 12 months of national and international events
- Consolidate weak sections without abandoning strong ones
- Practice at the same time of day as your actual exam slot
- Stay updated on official CLAT notifications, admit card release, and exam centre instructions



CLAT Retakers Program - Built for Serious Retakers

A focused prep program designed to help retakers improve with strategy and confidence.

[-> Explore the Retakers Program ->](#)

Common Mistakes to Avoid



Ignoring Current Affairs

Leaving Current Affairs preparation until the last month is one of the most common and costly mistakes CLAT aspirants make.



Low Accuracy, High Attempts

Attempting too many questions with low accuracy — negative marking can reduce scores significantly. Accuracy over volume.



Section Imbalance

Over-focusing on one section while neglecting others leads to an unbalanced score. All five sections contribute to your final rank.



Skipping the Passage

Not reading the passage carefully before attempting questions leads to avoidable errors. CLAT is comprehension-first.



Chasing Predicted Cutoffs

Relying on predicted cutoffs instead of focusing on your own score improvement is a distraction. Focus on what you can control.




CLAT Test Series - Rigorous Mock Practice

Rigorous mock practice to strengthen accuracy, time management, and exam confidence.

[-> Explore the CLAT Test Series ->](#)

Application Process & Documents

 Exact dates for each CLAT cycle are announced only through the official notification. All timeline references below are based on the latest officially available cycle pattern. Check consortiumofnlus.ac.in for confirmed dates.

CLAT registration is conducted entirely **online** through the official Consortium of NLUs portal. There is no offline registration mode. Candidates must register, fill the application form, upload documents, and pay the fee online.

01

Visit Official Portal

Visit the official Consortium website and click on the CLAT application link.

03

Fill Application Details

Fill in personal, academic, and category details accurately.

05

Pay Application Fee

Pay the application fee online (refer to official notification for fee amount).

02

Register & Create Login

Register with a valid email ID and mobile number — create login credentials.

04

Upload Documents

Upload required documents (scanned copies) in the specified format and size.

06

Submit & Download Confirmation

Submit the form and download/print the confirmation/acknowledgement.

Documents Required & Caution Points

Documents Required

- Recent passport-size photograph (as per size/format specified in the notification)
- Scanned signature
- Class 10 marksheet / certificate (for date of birth proof)
- Class 12 marksheet (if passed) or enrollment certificate (if appearing)
- Category/caste certificate (SC/ST/OBC/EWS) — if claiming reservation
- PwD certificate, if applicable
- NRI/foreign national documents — if applicable (refer to official notification)

Important Caution Points

Double-check all entered details

before final submission — corrections may not be permitted post-submission.

Correct file formats:

Ensure uploaded files are in the correct format (JPG/PDF) and within specified file size limits.

Functional email ID:

Use an email ID you can access throughout the entire admission process.

Authorised payment

modes only: Keep the transaction receipt. Application fee is generally non-refundable — confirm before payment.

Result, Counselling & Admission

BASED ON LATEST OFFICIALLY AVAILABLE CLAT CYCLE — EXACT DATES ANNOUNCED VIA OFFICIAL CONSORTIUM NOTIFICATION

Result & Merit List

The Consortium declares the CLAT result on its official portal after the examination, accompanied by a **provisional merit list** based on scores obtained.

Your **All India Rank (AIR)** is determined from this merit list. Separate merit lists are prepared for each category (General, SC, ST, OBC, EWS, PwD, etc.).

The rank determines which NLUs you are eligible to consider during counselling. Higher rank = more NLU options.

Counselling Process

Stage	What Happens
Counselling Registration	Eligible candidates register separately for counselling on the official portal within the specified window
NLU Preference Locking	Candidates fill preferred NLUs in order of priority — this is critical and should be done carefully
Seat Allotment Round 1	Seats are allotted based on rank, category, and preferences; allotment letter is issued
Accept / Upgrade Decision	Allotted candidates may accept the seat or participate in subsequent rounds for a better NLU
Subsequent Rounds	Additional rounds fill remaining seats; candidates can upgrade if a better preference is available
Final Admission	Report to the allotted NLU with original documents for verification and admission fee payment

⚠ Critical Notes: Admission is PROVISIONAL until original document verification at the NLU is complete. If you do not report to the allotted NLU within the given deadline, your seat may be cancelled. Each NLU has its own admission fee payment deadline — monitor the official schedule carefully.

Cutoff & Rank Framework

The Consortium of NLUs does not publish a single standard consolidated cutoff list. Admission is determined through the counselling process based on rank, category, seat matrix, and NLU preferences.

What is a Cutoff in CLAT?

In CLAT context, 'cutoff' typically refers to the **closing rank** — the rank of the last candidate who received an allotment in a particular NLU and category in a given counselling cycle. This is not a score threshold; it is a rank that varies every year.

What Determines the Closing Rank?

- Total number of candidates who appeared and their scores
- Total seat intake of the NLU for that cycle
- Category-wise seat distribution (General, SC, ST, OBC, EWS, PwD)
- Domicile / state reservation (varies by NLU — some NLUs reserve seats for their home state)
- Candidate preference choices during counselling
- Number of counselling rounds and seat movement

Indicative Rank Bands — General Category (Based on available historical patterns)

NLU	Approx. Indicative General Category Closing Rank
NLSIU Bengaluru	~AIR 80–100 (General)
NALSAR Hyderabad	~AIR 130–170 (General)
WBNUJS Kolkata	~AIR 220–260 (General)
NLU Jodhpur	~AIR 300–380 (General)
GNLU Gujarat	~AIR 450–550 (General)
MNLU Mumbai	~AIR 550–650 (General)
NLIU Bhopal / HNLU Raipur	~AIR 650–750 (General)
RGNUL Patiala	~AIR 800–950 (General)
RMLNLU Lucknow / NLU Odisha	~AIR 900–1,200 (General)
Other NLUs	AIR 1,200+ (General) — varies widely

Key Takeaways on Cutoffs & Strategy



Reserved Category Advantage

SC/ST/OBC/EWS category closing ranks are significantly higher (numerically) than General — more accessible for reserved category candidates.



Counselling Movement

Final admission depends on counselling movement — a lower rank student may still secure a top NLU through smart preference locking and round upgrades.



Domicile Reservations

Domicile reservations at certain NLUs can make admission easier for home-state candidates. Research each NLU's specific reservation policy.



Focus on Your Score

Focus on improving your score — the rank will follow. Do not get distracted by predicted cutoffs from unofficial sources.

NLUs Accepting CLAT — Complete List

The following **27 NLUs** participate in the CLAT UG counselling process (as per latest officially available cycle). **NLU Delhi is NOT part of the CLAT process** — it admits students separately through AILET.

#	NLU	City	State
1	NLSIU — National Law School of India University	Bengaluru	Karnataka
2	NALSAR University of Law	Hyderabad	Telangana
3	NLIU — National Law Institute University	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
4	WBNUJS — WB National University of Juridical Sciences	Kolkata	West Bengal
5	NLU Jodhpur — National Law University Jodhpur	Jodhpur	Rajasthan
6	HNLU — Hidayatullah National Law University	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
7	GNLU — Gujarat National Law University	Gandhinagar	Gujarat
8	GNLU — Gujarat National Law University (Silvassa Campus)	Silvassa	Dadra & Nagar Haveli
9	RMLNLU — Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya NLU	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
10	RGNUL — Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law	Patiala	Punjab
11	CNLU — Chanakya National Law University	Patna	Bihar
12	NUALS — National University of Advanced Legal Studies	Kochi	Kerala
13	NLUO — National Law University Odisha	Cuttack	Odisha
14	NUSRL — National University of Study & Research in Law	Ranchi	Jharkhand
15	NLUJA — NLU & Judicial Academy Assam	Guwahati	Assam
16	DSNLU — Damodaram Sanjivayya NLU	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
17	TNNLU — Tamil Nadu National Law University	Tiruchirappalli	Tamil Nadu
18	MNLU Mumbai — Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai	Mumbai	Maharashtra
19	MNLU Nagpur — Maharashtra National Law University Nagpur	Nagpur	Maharashtra
20	MNLU Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar	Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar	Maharashtra
21	HPNLU — Himachal Pradesh National Law University	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh
22	DNLU — Dharmashastra National Law University	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh
23	DBRANLU — Dr. B.R. Ambedkar NLU	Sonapat	Haryana
24	NLUT — National Law University Tripura	Agartala	Tripura
25	RPNLUP — Ram Prasad Bismil NLU Prayagraj	Prayagraj	Uttar Pradesh
26	IIULER — Indian International University of Legal Education & Research	Panaji	Goa
27	NLU Meghalaya	Shillong	Meghalaya

Final CLAT Aspirant Checklist

Your complete action checklist — from eligibility to NLU admission. Tick every box on your journey.

- Confirm your eligibility — Class 12 passed/appearing, minimum marks as per category.
- Read the official CLAT notification and brochure when released.
- Understand the exam pattern and syllabus from official sources.
- Register on the official portal before the last date; keep all documents ready.
- Fill the application form carefully; verify all details before submission.
- Prepare consistently — build reading habits, practice mocks, analyse errors.
- Track counselling updates on the official Consortium website.
- During counselling, research NLU preferences carefully before locking choices.
- After allotment, report to your NLU with original documents within the deadline.
- Verify all information from official sources — not from coaching portals or social media.

Disclaimer: This guidebook is prepared using the latest officially available information from the Consortium of NLUs and relevant official university sources. Candidates must verify all dates, eligibility, seat intake, reservation rules, and counselling instructions from the official CLAT notification and the respective NLU website before making any admission decision. Details based on the latest officially available cycle (CLAT 2026) unless otherwise stated.