

NLUD-SOAS **JOINT LLM/MA** in **ENVIRONMENTAL** **JUSTICE** in **SOUTH ASIA**





NLUD-SOAS
**JOINT LL.M/MA IN ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE IN SOUTH ASIA**

Make a meaningful difference by developing the skills to address today's most urgent environmental challenges.

The Joint LLM/MA in Environmental Justice offered by SOAS University of London and National Law University Delhi (NLUD) is an unparalleled opportunity to develop critical expertise in environmental law and policy with a focus on South Asia.

This jointly taught and awarded one-year programme is designed for students passionate about making a real-world difference and gaining the skills necessary to address urgent global challenges.

Learn in two dynamic cities—London and New Delhi—while gaining both global and regional insights into environmental law, policy, and community action.

Learning experience

The programme will provide a unique and transformative learning experience, which graduates can bring to careers in research, policy studies and international non-governmental and governmental organisations.

During the course, students will:

- have the opportunity to undertake a programme aimed at exploring issues of environmental justice through the lens of South Asia
- be jointly admitted to both institutions and have access to resources from both SOAS and NLU throughout the programme.
- travel to the UK and India as part of the programme, with the first semester spent at SOAS on campus and the second semester spent at NLU on campus, followed by a dissertation.

The programme has a single fee for all students regardless of country of origin. Upon completion of the programme, students will be jointly awarded a LLM/MA by both SOAS and NLU.

Key information

- ✦ Duration: 1 year
- ✦ Start of programme: September
- ✦ Attendance mode: Full-time
- ✦ Location: SOAS University of London & National Law University Delhi. This programme will be conducted across both the UK and India.
- ✦ Fees for all students: £12,848
- ✦ Language of instruction: English
- ✦ How to apply: Students will need to apply via SOAS for this programme.
- ✦ For details on how to apply, visit SOAS' website or scan the QR code



Apply here

- ✦ To find more course details, scan the QR codes below



NLU

or



SOAS

Why study the LLM/MA in Environmental Justice in South Asia?

Develop strong research & analytical skills

In first semester at SOAS, you'll engage with leading scholars, conduct in-depth legal research, and participate in debates on contemporary environmental challenges and their application in the South Asian context.

Your research and analytical skills will be honed through seminars, case studies, and legal writing that prepares you for the complexities of modern environmental issues.

Gain clinical skills & hands-on experience

In second semester at NLUD, you will work directly with communities in India through a Law Clinic, applying your legal knowledge to real-world environmental issues. Learn how to apply theoretical knowledge to help solve pressing environmental problems faced by communities directly impacted.

It is also designed to help in knowledge transfer using workable models from the global North to the global South and vice versa.





Develop regional expertise

Understanding the legal, cultural, and environmental dynamics of South Asia is crucial to addressing global environmental challenges.

By studying at both SOAS and NLUD, you will gain deep insight into the region's legal frameworks, environmental issues, and socio-political context. This regional focus is unique to this LLM programme, giving you an edge in a highly competitive field.

Unlock career opportunities

With the growing importance of environmental law, this LLM will open doors to careers in international organisations, NGOs, government agencies, and law firms across the globe.

You will benefit from the SOAS and NLUD alumni networks, offering global connections and mentoring from professionals working in environmental law, policy, and activism.



Why NLU Delhi?

- ✦ NLUD is ranked 2nd in the Law Category, in the 2023 National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Rankings.
- ✦ Established in 2008, NLUD has become one of the leading institutions of legal education and impact-driven research in India.
- ✦ It is accredited with CGPA of 3.10 on four point scale at 'A' grade valid up to April 2028, awarded by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

Why SOAS?

- ✦ SOAS is ranked in the UK top 20 (QS World University Rankings 2023).
- ✦ We are ranked 6th in the UK for employment outcomes (QS World University Rankings 2023).
- ✦ Our research publications have been rated first in the UK – and our School of Law rated sixth in the UK – in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021.



Entry requirements

MA A 2:2 (or international equivalent) or higher in a relevant Social Sciences subject for students other than India. For students applying from India and holding a BA/BSc/BCom from India, students need to have completed an integrated four-year degree programme to be eligible for the course.

LLM A 2:2 LLB (or international equivalent). Students wishing to apply for the LLM Programme must have successfully completed an LLB. If you have a lower degree classification, your application may be considered if you can present a strong case, either through relevant work experience, other legal qualifications, or a strong supporting statement.

References are not required but can help build a stronger application if you fall below the 2:2 requirement or have non-traditional qualifications.

Indian degree equivalent: 3 or 4 year BA degree, minimum overall 55% or 5.5/10
Please see our international entry requirements and English language requirements for further details.



International mobility

This programme contains mandatory travel from UK and India. To be able to undertake the programme, students must successfully obtain a visitor visa for the UK prior to starting the programme and a student visa for India before the start of semester 2.

Please ensure to check the visa requirements and your eligibility for a visa for both the UK and India before applying to this programme.

Neither SOAS nor NLU can accept liability for failure of a student to obtain valid UK and Indian visas for the programme.

Please see [SOAS visas and immigration](#) for more information on applying for a UK visitor visa and the [NLU Visa page](#) and the [Ministry of Home Affairs](#), India for an Indian student visa.

Structure

To be awarded the LLM/MA, students must take modules to a total value of 180 SOAS credits / 120 NLUD credits.

This will include a mix of compulsory courses, electives courses and a dissertation.

Please note that not all modules listed will be available every year.

Semester 1 (September to January)

Study in London at SOAS, where you'll gain foundational knowledge of international environmental law, with an emphasis on South Asia.

Semester 2 (February to June)

Move to New Delhi, where your education will be grounded in the South Asian region, developing a good understanding of region specific regulatory models and working with communities as part of the clinical courses.



Thesis Project (June to September):

Complete an original research project or practical report based on your fieldwork and research, supported by faculty from both universities.

SOAS (September to January)

Students take the following three compulsory modules delivered by SOAS (15 SOAS credits is equivalent to 10 NLUD credits)

Foundations of Environmental Justice with reference to South Asia	15 credits
International environmental law and policy with reference to South Asia	15 credits
Research Methods	15 credits

AND one of the guided optional modules below delivered by SOAS (15 SOAS credits is equivalent to 10 NLUD credits)

Water Justice: Rights, Access and Movements	15 credits
Civil society, social movements and the development process	15 credits
Alternatives to Sustainable Development: Rights of Nature and Harmony with Nature	15 credits

NLUD (February to June)

Students take the following four compulsory modules delivered by NLUD (10 NLUD credits is equivalent to 15 SOAS credits)

Environmental Law and Policy in India	15 credits
Natural Resources Law and Policy in South Asia	15 credits
Quantitative Research Methods & Environmental Justice Clinic	15 credits
Climate Justice and Climate Law: South-North Perspectives	15 credits

Dissertation

Dissertation (12,000 words), on a topic related to environmental justice. The module can be undertaken at SOAS or NLUD or remotely (60 SOAS credits is equivalent to 40 NLUD credits)

LLM Dissertation in Environmental Justice	60 credits
MA Dissertation in Environmental Justice	60 credits



Knowledge & learning

- ✦ Acquire specialist knowledge of environmental law related in particular to South Asia
- ✦ Learn about the context in which environmental law is made, interpreted, adjudicated, and amended in a North-South perspective and focused on South Asia
- ✦ Learn about the role and function of legal institutions in managing the environment and natural resources in South Asia
- ✦ Develop knowledge of the weight and significance of different sources and methodologies and how to locate relevant materials and assess their relevance and/or importance



Contact hours

The Masters in Environmental Justice in South Asia consist of 180 SOAS credits/120 NLUD credits, made up of taught modules of 15/10 credits taught over one term, and a dissertation of 60/40 credits.

The programme structure shows which modules are compulsory and which are optional electives.

At SOAS, 1 credit equals approximately 10 hours of work. Most of this will be independent study, including reading and research, preparing coursework, revising for examinations and so on.

At NLUD 1 credit equals approximately 15 hours of classroom teaching. It will also include class time, which may include lectures, seminars and other classes.



Highlights

✦ Scholarship

NLUD-SOAS Joint LLM/MA Bursary Award
Deadline date - 31 July 2025

✦ Employment

Graduates of this programme will leave with a solid grounding in environmental law and justice as civic minded and critically engaged individuals who can effectively contribute to making their communities and societies more sustainable.

You will have a thorough understanding of the legal dimensions underlying the environment and will be valued by employers due to their analytical skills, specialist knowledge, and a regional South Asian and global perspective.

✦ Living in London

During your stay in London, you will be able to enjoy the benefits of studying in a campus located in the very centre of city, in close proximity to a number of other institutions of higher learning, giving you access to a multitude of opportunities to broaden your knowledge, networks and experience.

Owing to the short-term stay in London for the course, you will not be able to stay in the main SOAS Halls of Residence. This means that your accommodation will not be booked via the SOAS Accommodation Office, but directly with our partner agencies.



Endorsements



Sagar Dhara

Researcher, South Asian People's Action on Climate Crisis (SAPACC)


“The proposed LLM/MA course in Environmental Justice by NLUD, Delhi and SOAS, London promises to be an interesting programme that merges expertise from two prestigious institutions. It offers students an opportunity to engage with critical environmental issues from a South-North perspective. The course emphasizes both academic training in environmental policy and research and exposure to how environmental law pans out in the field. By fostering collaborative learning in international environmental law that spans two continents, this course should produce a new generation of professionals who will be better equipped to address pressing environmental challenges.”



Arkaja Singh

Fellow, Council on Energy, Environment and Water, New Delhi

“The NLUD-SOAS joint LLM/MA programme in Environmental Justice promises to bring a refreshing new approach to how law and social science students engage with the critical environmental and climate change challenges of our times. It will provide theory, intellectual methods and a contextualised understanding of environment and climate change, plus the opportunity to engage with specialised (and deeply relevant) questions in these areas. I look forward to the ways in which the lawyers and social scientists who graduate from this programme can bridge the intellectual and interdisciplinary gaps of this field.”





Dr Virginie Rouas

Policy Officer, European Coalition for Corporate Justice & Associate Fellow, Asser Institute

“The NLUD-SOAS Joint LLM/MA in Environmental Justice in South Asia delves deeply into a wide range of issues arising from the current planetary and human rights crises. For instance, students will engage with questions linked to corporate responsibility in value chains and emerging regulation such as corporate human rights and environmental due diligence legislation. They will also critically examine the various policy challenges associated with climate change mitigation and adaptation, including climate change litigation against public authorities and companies.

With this Joint LLM/MA, students will gain a mix of legal knowledge of national, regional or international frameworks and critical thinking skills actively sought by NGOs working on corporate and climate change regulation. The NLUD-SOAS Joint LLM/MA in Environmental Justice in South Asia is a new degree programme that will offer students critical new perspectives on environmental and climate justice as well as environmental law, studied from a regional and international perspective.”



Marta Simonetti

Managing Director and founder of Globalfields Ltd, UK

“The content of the programme - taking place in two countries- is well structured and provides not only an academic approach, but also valuable exposure to the field, including local communities, local government, NGOs, and companies. This international dimension is well regarded by employers that are active in the area of climate and environmental governance, such as Globalfields. Issues such as the equitable management of water resources, improving the climate resilience of local communities and underserved groups, or steering companies towards adopting demonstrable measures to enable social and environmental sustainability of their activities, require nowadays strong research and analytical skills. This joint programme will equip students with the tools and skills to competently engage with these contemporary debates and challenges.”



SOAS: The World's University

At SOAS we interrogate the great challenges of our time - climate change, political and social polarisation, and inequality - through a global lens.

Our mission is to develop local and global knowledge, international perspectives, engage in robust debate, and teach the necessary skills required to be a global citizen - one who is capable of making an impact in a changing world.

At SOAS we aim is to tackle the World's biggest challenges through academic collaboration and cooperation. In our latest series, we bring together academics and analysts from different disciplines to discuss topics from climate change to human rights.

National Law University Delhi

Established in 2008, National Law University Delhi is a premier law university in India that aims to evolve and impart comprehensive and interdisciplinary legal education. The university is committed to disseminating legal knowledge and developing the pedagogical acumen necessary to engage with contemporary legal issues of public importance.

The University aims to shape its students as instruments of change who will be equipped to address the imperatives of the new millennium while upholding constitutional values. NLUD graduates have excelled in diverse fields, such as academia, legal practice, administrative services and entrepreneurship.



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or



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London, UK

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New Delhi, India