

जीवाजी विश्वविद्यालय, ग्वालियर

प्रेषक :
सम्बद्धता विभाग,
जीवाजी विश्वविद्यालय
ग्वालियर



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क्रमांक : एफ/सम्बद्धता/2025/ 59

दिनांक : 20.03.25

प्रति,

अध्यक्ष/सचिव/प्राचार्य
समस्त शासकीय एवं अशासकीय विधि महाविद्यालय
सम्बद्ध जीवाजी विश्वविद्यालय ग्वालियर

विषय:- बार काउन्सिल ऑफ इण्डिया से प्राप्त निर्देशानुसार विधि पाठ्यक्रमों की सम्बद्धता संबंधी कार्यवाही किये जाने बाबत।

संदर्भ:- BCI:D:258/2025 (LE Circular No. 15/2025) दिनांक 20.03.2025

महोदय/महोदया,

उपरोक्त विषयान्तर्गत एवं संदर्भित पत्र के संबंध में उल्लेखित है कि, बार काउन्सिल ऑफ इण्डिया द्वारा जारी निर्देशानुसार विधि पाठ्यक्रमों की सम्बद्धता संबंधी कार्यवाही संलग्न परिपत्र अनुसार की जाना सुनिश्चित किया जावे।

सूचनार्थ प्रेषित।

संलग्न - उपरोक्तानुसार


कुलसचिव

प्रतिलिपि :-

1. अध्यक्ष/सचिव बार काउन्सिल ऑफ इण्डिया 21 साउथ एवेन्यू इंस्टीट्यूशनल एरिया नई दिल्ली।
2. आयुक्त, उच्च शिक्षा विभाग, सतपुडा भवन, भोपाल, म.प्र.।
3. अतिरिक्त संचालक, उच्च शिक्षा, ग्वालियर-चम्बल संभाग, कस्तूरबा चौराहा कम्पू, लश्कर ग्वालियर।
4. परीक्षा नियंत्रक, जीवाजी विश्वविद्यालय, ग्वालियर की ओर सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु।
5. कुलपति के सचिव/कुलसचिव के निज सहायक, जीवाजी विश्वविद्यालय, ग्वालियर।
6. प्रभारी, आई. टी. सेल. जीवाजी विश्वविद्यालय, ग्वालियर की ओर सूचना पटल पर चस्पा करने हेतु।


डायरेक्टर,

महाविद्यालयीन विकास परिषद्



भारतीय विधिज्ञ परिषद् BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

(Statutory Body Constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961)

21, Rouse Avenue Institutional Area, Near Bal Bhawan, New Delhi - 110002

BCI:D:...2.58...../2025 (LE Circular No.15/2025)

Dated: 20.03.2025

To,

The Vice-Chancellor(s),
All the University(ies)

Sub.: Request for timely issuance of affiliation to the Centers of Legal Education and for an appropriate duration.

Sir(s)/Ma'am(s),

This is to bring to the notice of all universities, both State and Central, that grant affiliations to colleges imparting legal education, that compliance with the Bar Council of India's Legal Education Rules and Judicial Directives is of paramount importance. The Bar Council of India, as an independent statutory body under the Advocates Act, 1961, is entrusted with the regulation and standardization of legal education across the country. The Bar Council of India derives its powers and functions from the Advocates Act, 1961, particularly under Sections 7(h) and (i), 24(1)(c)(iii) and (iiia), 49(1)(af), (ag), and (d), which outline its responsibility to promote legal education and set standards in consultation with universities in India, whose degree shall be a qualification for enrolment as an advocate, including the power to inspect such universities.

While the BCI plays a pivotal role in regulating legal education, we acknowledge and reiterate that our mandate primarily comes into play at the 3rd stage once an institution has procured NOC from the concerned Education Ministry in the State and has further obtained an affiliation order from the University concerned.

It is at the initial 1st stage, particularly during the process of grant of No Objection Certificate by the Ministry of Education in each State and Centre as applicable according to the location and jurisdiction of the Centre of Legal Education, and during the 2 stage i.e. during process of affiliation by an University, where proactive measures must be taken to ensure compliance with stringent standards.

As per BCI Rules of Legal Education- schedule III, Rule 14- Copy of Affiliation Rules of the University: All affiliating Universities would be required to forward a copy of the Affiliation Rules and affiliation order to the Bar Council of India before an Inspection of the University including any of it's affiliated Centres of Legal Education.

This measure is aimed at ensuring transparency and accountability in the affiliation process.

R/21/3/25
समस्त विधिज्ञ परिषद् (BCI)
कक्ष
21/3/25

PDC
24/3

V4/215
21.3.25

R/23/27
24/6/25

Reference is made to BCI:D:5177/2024 (LE Circular No.11/2024) dated 21.09.2024, which mandates that all Centers of Legal Education (CLEs) seeking provisional approval of affiliation for any academic year must submit the required documents to proledepartment@gmail.com.

Each CLE must submit a scanned and self-attested copy of the original university affiliation letter specifying the exact course and period of affiliation, such as "Affiliation is granted for the LL.B. (3-year) degree course for the academic years 2026-2029" instead of vague terms like "affiliation is granted from...". If the affiliation letter is issued in a regional language, a true, fair, and self-attested English translation must also be provided. Universities are required to submit all affiliations granted by them to the BCI annually, ensuring proper indexing and English translation where required.

The submission of previous provisional approval letters is also mandatory. The last provisional approval letter issued by the Bar Council of India to the CLE, as well as the last Standing Committee of Legal Education letter issued by the BCI, must be included in the application. In addition, all CLEs must submit fee details, including regular inspection/approval fees, guarantee fees, default fees (if any), and any other applicable charges, along with their respective receipts, in a tabular format for clarity. The submission of the last compliance letter or affidavit previously submitted to the BCI is also necessary to demonstrate adherence to prescribed norms and procedures. Failure to provide these documents will result in the non-grant of provisional approval for affiliation, and the Bar Council of India will not be held responsible for any delay or denial caused by non-compliance.

Rule 16 of Chapter III of the Bar Council of India Rules of Legal Education mandates that universities ensure strict compliance with the prescribed conditions before granting affiliation to a Centre of Legal Education.

The sub-clauses of Rule 16(1) outline the necessary legal, financial, and infrastructural requirements for a Centre of Legal Education, including that the institution must be a non-profit organization, have adequate infrastructure, an independent principal, a sufficient number of full-time and visiting faculty, and a well-equipped library. Rule 16(2) further provides that after an affiliation order is received from the university, the Centre of Legal Education may only then apply for inspection by the Bar Council of India. This requirement underscores the sequence of regulatory approvals, ensuring that the university first grants affiliation before the Bar Council of India conducts an inspection. This process ensures that only institutions that have met the university's statutory and academic standards are further evaluated for compliance with the Bar Council of India's regulatory framework.

The Rules are herein quoted below :-

16. *Conditions for a University to affiliate a Centre of Legal Education*

- (1) *When a University receives an application for affiliation of a Centre of Legal Education to provide legal education by running professional degree program in law under either or both the streams, the University may before deciding whether it is fit case for seeking inspection from the Bar Council of India, shall ensure that*

- (i) *the applicant organization proposing to run the institution is either already a non-profit organization of trust or registered society or a non-profit company or any other such legal entity or has taken all legal formalities to be as such,*
- (ii) *the institution has in its name either in freehold or leasehold, adequate land and buildings, to provide for Centre of Legal Education building, library, halls of residences separately for male and female and sports complex both indoor and outdoor, so that it can effectively run professional law courses provided that in case of leasehold the lease is not less than ten years, Provided that sufficient and adequate floor space area specially and completely devoted for a Centre of Legal Education, based on the size of its student population, faculty requirement, adequate space required for infrastructure facilities can be considered sufficient accommodation for the purpose in a multi-faculty building on land possessed by the Management of a Society/ Trust running multi-faculty institutions.*
- (iii) *recruited or taken steps to recruit adequate number of full time and visiting faculty members to teach each subjects of studies, each faculty having at least a Master Degree in the respective subject as required under the UGC Rules,*
- (iv) *there is the separate Centres of Legal Education for the study of law under a separate Principal who should be qualified in Law to be a Professor of Law as stipulated under UGC and Bar Council of India rules,*
- (v) *there is adequate space for reading in the library and there are required number of books and journals and adequate number of computers and computer terminals under a qualified librarian,*
- (vi) *if the prior permission of the State Government is necessary, a no objection certificate is obtained to apply for affiliation,*
- (vii) *a minimum Capital Fund as may be required under Schedule III from time to time by the Bar Council of India, and put into a Bank Account in the name of the proposed Centre of Legal Education sponsored by any private sponsor or sponsors, and*
- (viii) *all other conditions of affiliation under the University rules as well as the Bar Council of India Rules are complied with.*

The sub-clauses of Rule 16(1) outline the necessary legal, financial, and infrastructural requirements for a Centre of Legal Education, including that the institution must be a non-profit organization, have adequate infrastructure, an independent principal, a sufficient number of full-time and visiting faculty, and a well-equipped library.

- (2) *After affiliation order is received from the University the Centres of Legal Education may only then apply for inspection by the Bar Council of India.*

This requirement underscores the sequence of regulatory approvals, ensuring that the university first grants affiliation before the Bar Council of India conducts an inspection. This process ensures that only institutions that have met the university's statutory and academic standards are further evaluated for compliance with the Bar Council of India's regulatory framework.

However, it has come to our attention that some universities may not be exercising due diligence in this regard.

Rule 17 of Rules of Legal Education, 2008 states that when a University proposes to run a professional degree course in law of either or both streams in its Faculty or Department or in any of its constituent Colleges, it shall ensure the minimum standards of requirement as prescribed and then shall in each proposal seek inspection by the team of inspection of the Bar Council of India. This must be done by submission of an application with all necessary information within the stipulated date notified by the Bar Council of India every year, in the appropriate form.

Rule 18(1) of Rules of Legal Education, 2008 further elaborates that a University seeking recognition of its degree in law for the purpose of enrolment in the Bar shall provide the inspecting committee of the Bar Council of India all necessary facilities to examine the syllabus of the course designed, teaching and learning process, evaluation system, infrastructure layout, and other necessary conditions. The University must ensure that its Departmental Centres, Faculty, Constituent and affiliated Centres of Legal Education possess the required infrastructural facilities, prescribed number of teaching faculty as per BCI and UGC, practical legal education facilities including Legal Aid Clinics and Moot Courts, and adequate library and technical resources.

The Supreme Court of India, in Bar Council of India vs. Rabi Sahu & Anr. (Civil Appeal No.8571 of 2013), reaffirmed that the BCI has the statutory authority under Section 49, read with Section 24(3)(d) of the Advocates Act, 1961, to prescribe conditions for enrollment, including requiring a law degree from a BCI-recognized institution. This ruling firmly established that law degrees obtained from institutions not recognized by the BCI will not be accepted for enrollment as advocates.

Recently, Hon'ble High Court of Kerala in the matter of International Educational Trust vs. State of Kerala & Others (WP(C) No. 34243 of 2023) - In this case, the Hon'ble Kerala High Court reaffirmed the importance of adhering to the BCI's Rules of Legal Education, 2008, particularly the requirement that applications for the recognition of law courses must be submitted by December 31st of the previous year. The court upheld the BCI's authority to enforce this deadline and did not alter the BCI's regulatory framework. While allowing the petitioners' university affiliation to be extended for the 2024-25 academic year, the court emphasized that the BCI's deadlines must be followed, reinforcing the primacy of the Bar Council of India's rules for all law institutions seeking recognition.

Therefore, we earnestly request and direct all affiliating Universities to not only comply with the aforementioned directives but also to furnish comprehensive insights into the criteria, norms, personnel involved, and the inspection procedures utilized during the affiliation process of new legal education centers.

This should encompass all documents involved in the entirety of the affiliation process, including a standardized format of the inspection form and report.

Furthermore, the university concerned must issue the affiliation to the law colleges for imparting law degree program at least 6-month prior from the upcoming academic session in the compliance of the Bar council of India Legal education rule so that, the CLE's would be made application on or before 31st December for the next academic session according to the legal education rules 2008 schedule-XIII.

The Bar Council of India annually invite the application for the proposed new colleges/existing colleges for their additional section or new courses till the 31st December every year and it is supposed that the applicant CLE must have to submit their application along with the valid affiliation six month prior to upcoming academic session which is to be start from the 1st July i.e. according to the academic calendar.

It is strongly advisable for Universities to consider granting affiliations for a three-year period at a time, instead of the standard one-year affiliation. The rationale behind this recommendation by BCI is to streamline the process of law college recognition and to align university procedures with the Bar Council of India's established timelines. This will facilitate smoother coordination between universities and the BCI, ensuring that law institutions can maintain compliance with the BCI's recognition schedule and reduce unnecessary administrative hurdles. By adopting this approach, CLEs would be better positioned to meet BCI's regulatory requirements, thereby avoiding disruptions in the recognition process. The BCI operates on a strict timeline, requiring all law institutions seeking recognition for a particular academic year to submit their applications, complete with university affiliation, by December 31st of the preceding year. By granting a three-year affiliation, universities can reduce the administrative burden on Centers of Legal Education (CLEs), allowing them to focus on timely submissions to the BCI. A three-year affiliation would provide CLEs with more predictability and flexibility. If an academic session is missed or delayed due to procedural issues, the CLEs would still have valid affiliation for subsequent years, enabling them to apply to the BCI for the next academic session by the December 31st deadline without having to reapply for university affiliation. This reduces the risk of procedural delays or lapses that arise from the need to secure a new affiliation each year.


All CLEs are advised to carefully review and adhere to these rules to ensure compliance and avoid any legal or procedural complications regarding the recognition and approval of law courses.

The Bar Council of India remains committed to upholding the highest standards of legal education. However, the effective implementation of regulatory guidelines relies significantly on the cooperation of universities and CLEs. It is imperative that all CLEs strictly comply with the established rules, requirements, and deadlines outlined by the BCI. Any deviation or non-compliance with these regulations will result in delays or outright rejection of affiliation applications, for which the Bar Council of India shall bear no responsibility.

Ensuring the integrity and excellence of legal education is a shared responsibility. Universities and CLEs must align their administrative processes with the legal framework prescribed by the BCI and adhere to the specified timelines. This collaborative effort is essential for safeguarding the credibility of legal institutions and fostering a robust legal education system that meets the evolving needs of the profession.

The Rules of Legal Education, 2008, as published in the Official Gazette of India, are binding on all Centers of Legal Education (CLEs) and Universities granting law degrees. These rules establish the regulatory framework for maintaining and upholding the standards of legal education nationwide.

Once notified and gazetted, these regulations do not require separate communication to individual CLEs. However, we are providing them for your reference as a matter of assistance, not obligation.


(Nalin Raj Chaturvedi)
Additional Secretary
Bar Council of India