

## Law mission India: 18 to 22 January 2016: Delhi, Pune and Kolkata

### Introduction:

Law has been a popular subject in India and is of interest for many UK institutions for collaborative tie-ups and recruitment. At the Education UK exhibitions, enquires related to Law courses continues to be featured in the top 10 enquired subjects by students attending the exhibitions. This was the third consecutive year for the Law mission in India and each mission has been designed to encourage academic engagement and boost exchange of ideas between UK and Indian institutions.


The mission commenced in the city of Delhi, continued to Pune and concluded in Kolkata. These cities were chosen as the British Council had visited the institutions in these cities and observed an inclination towards International Law education, and these institutions had expressed an interest to engage with UK institutions through collaborative/partnership arrangements.

The programme for the mission included academic interaction and student interaction. A presentation was delivered by each UK academic to students at each Indian institution. The lecture topics were decided beforehand based on the specialisations of each academic mutually agreed with the local institution in advance. Post the presentation to the student audience, a faculty discussion was convened where the respective faculty from the local institutions had the opportunity to showcase their areas of research and explore opportunities for collaborations. Both the local and UK institutions faculty members also highlighted the existing models of collaboration across other institutions globally.

The UK delegation comprised of the following academics:

- 1 Prof. Mel Kenny – University of Exeter
2. Prof. Andrew Baker – Liverpool John Moores University
3. Dr. Simon Sneddon – University of Northampton
4. Prof. John Tingle – Nottingham Trent University
5. Prof. Matthew Sadler - Staffordshire University
6. Prof. Charlotte Skeet – University of Sussex

The following report throws light on the detailed follow through on the mission in both the cities and the detailed program that highlights findings at each visiting institution is elaborated as below.



The mission began in the city of Delhi on 18 January with a pre-mission briefing at British Council Delhi office. The two day programme in Delhi comprised of visits to well-known private universities and the alumni of these Universities have profound Industry skills with requisite know-how of management.

Day One: 18 January: AM

[Northcap University](#)

The delegation was met by the Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean of Law School.

1. Student interaction: Presentations were delivered by the UK delegation to the student audience comprising majorly of undergraduate and master's program students. The topics were exhibited by the delegates in 2 different classrooms highlighting the importance of the areas presented on. The topics were as follows:

- Classroom 1:  
Dr.Simon Sneddon: Involvement of organised crime groups in the international trade in endangered species  
Prof. Charlotte Skeet: Human Rights
- Classroom 2:  
Prof.Mel Kenny: Harmonisation of transnational commercial law  
Prof.John Tingle; Medical and health law

2. Faculty interaction: The Interaction began with introduction of the delegation to the Northcap University Law faculty, Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean Law School. The meeting was highly focused with ideas on initiating exchange programs and signing MoUs for future implementation. Northcap University is one of the leading Institutions in Delhi/NCR region which provides quality legal education to equip the students for a transnational practice and to face the challenges posed by the internationalisation of legal profession. The key highlights of the interaction were:

Faculty exchange: Feasibility of faculty exchange in terms of working together or collaborating for international seminars and workshops. Northcap University is constantly evolving their Law curriculum into a transnational one which can be taught jointly by a global faculty and the current faculty members through video conferencing and other virtual modes.

Research exchange: Northcap University is constantly striving to undertake collaborative research and consultancy projects with industry and foreign institutions to remain at the forefront of scientific and technological developments. They are working on a large number of collaborative research projects and are under operation and they are interested in seeking further research collaborations on the academic forefront. They welcome faculty and Phd students from partnering UK institutions for working on projects with and they strongly believe that the joint research programs will enable students and faculty to share resources and research findings enabling them with enhanced knowledge inputs.

Student exchange: Northcap University invites students from partnering UK institutions for research and semester exchange programs. The 5 year integrated Law program at Northcap University aims at working on best practices from American, English, and European Union legal system apart from a working knowledge of few foreign languages like French, German, etc. This platform majorly requires a successful collaboration to make students learn the inside view of legal system and practices of a specific country.

Curriculum exchange: Northcap University along with partnering UK Institutions can jointly work on building international curriculum. The students can go to the partnering institutions and international students can visit the Northcap University and get immersed for two semesters of study. This exchange can help students mingle and have a transnational perspective.

Total students met: 140, Total faculty met: 9

The delegation was met by the Vice Chancellor and Senior professor of Law school

1. Student interaction: The delegation presented their areas of expertise and research in the similar manner as done at the previous Institution. However, there was an additional session with 2 more UK Delegates delivering topics in the areas of commercial and Health Law. The topics were as follows:
  - Classroom 1:  
Dr.Simon Sneddon: Involvement of organised crime groups in the international trade in endangered species  
Prof. Charlotte Skeet: Human Rights
  - Classroom 2:  
Prof.Mel Kenny: Harmonisation of transnational commercial law  
Prof.John Tingle; Medical and health law
  - Classroom 3:  
Matthew Sadler: 'The Law of Obligations: Contract Law & Tort Law in our Everyday Lives'  
Prof.Andrew Baker: Structure of Bank Regulation
2. Faculty interaction: The interaction began with initial introduction of the delegation to the Vice Chancellor of GD Goenka University. The VC highlighted that its School of Law is approved by Bar Council of India, statutory body created by Parliament of India to regulate and represent the Indian bar. GD Goenka University looks forward to build international standards of learning and fully equipping the students with superiorly built abilities in the area of Law.

Faculty exchange: GD Goenka University showed interest in faculty exchange programs through FDPs, research and publication initiatives and international seminars and paper presentations. They warmly welcomed the delegation to partner with the University for small visits catering in the areas of guest lectures and International sessions. They were happy to explore international case study analysis, seminars, group discussions, moot court competitions and a variety of experiential methods.

Research exchange: GD Goenka University aims at concentrating on team work by the way of research projects. It already has on-going research projects jointly worked upon by faculty and students. The Law school equips students with skills for global research enabling them to adapt, innovate and apply their knowledge in international legal issues. The University has invited UK institutions for research work in the form of case law, real or simulated lawyers' tasks, etc.

Student exchange: GD Goenka is looking for student exchange programs for 1-2 semesters. The school of Law has multidisciplinary approach towards law and legal studies. It has four areas of undergraduate Law and one LLM course. The aim of these programs is to provide a range of local, national, international and global themes for study in a critical legal perspective. Hence, the University invites international students to its campus for inclusive learning and is also eager in sending their students to the partnering UK University.

Curriculum exchange:

The University preferred semester exchange programs and credits transfer system. The University invited the delegation to jointly form a group with the Law School Faculty and organise practical skill sessions for the students. Moot Court sessions, Law Club, Debate Club, etc. enhance the analytical abilities of studies. These sessions can be jointly monitored by GD Goenka faculty and UK Institution faculty for training the students both from national and international perspective.

Total students met: 185, Total faculty met: 9

Day Two: 19 January: AM  
[Amity University, Manesar](#)

The delegation was met by the Pro Vice Chancellor, Dean Academics and Director of Law School

1. Student interaction: Students were presented with significant and relevant topics in three separate session halls by the UK delegation. The audience comprised of undergraduate and postgraduate level students. The students were curious to know more on the topics presented which led to an interesting round of question and answer session.
2. Faculty Interaction: Pro VC, Dean Academics, Director Law School, International Affairs Director, Training and Placement Coordinator, VC Jaipur Campus were present at the meeting. There were discussions around academic linkages and future collaborations. During the discussions, the delegation elaborated areas for collaboration under academic purview between the Amity University and their respective University.

The discussion led to a reasonable conclusion of some considerable action points by Amity University.

- Faculty Exchange model was explored on the grounds of regular exchanges, financial and operational viability. The exchanges revolve around sending and inviting faculty for Faculty Development Programs, Seminars, Conferences, Workshops and Research. Amity also plans to introduce a few more areas under Law which can act as major/minor subjects.
- Research exchange: Amity University intends to collaborate on scholarships. The joint scholarships will be an open avenue for students and help them become more skilled in specific areas of study. Additionally it will also help the students and faculty both learn and engage ideas on an international platform. The collaborative project and scholarship work will involve two students and one international faculty or two international students and one Amity Faculty. The joint research projects could be taken up at the doctoral level too.
- Student exchange: Amity University invites students from its partnering UK Institutions for its Immersion Program. The university also runs a highly integrated three Continent Program where the scope of sending its students for three months to UK widens under this partnership. However, Amity insists on having flexibility in certifications and credit transfers wherein the students' learning can be very well recognised and accepted by the Indian and UK education system. Joint projects and scholarships are most favoured programs. Amity University also conducts Moot Court Sessions for its students.
- Training programs: The University offered short term training programs, International Moot sessions, skill based certifications, comparative study of constitutional law classes and specialised Law certifications to the International students. The University looks forward to providing certifications and courses in the area of Law that will be specific to students in the field of Banking, Finance and International Business.
- Dual degree: Dual Degree model is not allowed by UGC. However, an understanding of curriculum exchange or semester exchange was preferred where Indian students can go to the partnering University for one/two semesters and engage in UK Law curriculum of the partnering university and vice-versa. The focus was on curriculum mapping and credit transfer system.

Total student met: 325, Total faculty met: 12

The delegation then travelled to Pune as during the second leg of the mission visit to visit three local institutions from 20 to 21 January 2016.

The first day comprised of a visit to Pune University - Department of Law and Symbiosis Law School. The second day comprised of a visit to BVPU New Law College. The program at all three institutions comprised of guest lectures followed by a faculty discussion.

Day three: 20 January: AM  
[Pune University - Department of Law](#)

The delegation was met by the Head of Department of Pune University on their arrival and the delegates then went onto present the guest lectures in 3 different classrooms. The topics were same as delivered at institutions in Delhi.

- Classroom 1:  
Dr.Simon Sneddon: Involvement of organised crime groups in the international trade in endangered species  
Prof. Charlotte Skeet: Human Rights
- Classroom 2:  
Prof.Mel Kenny: Harmonisation of transnational commercial law  
Prof.John Tingle; Medical and health law
- Classroom 3:  
Matthew Sadler: 'The Law of Obligations: Contract Law & Tort Law in our Everyday Lives'  
Prof.Andrew Baker: Structure of Bank Regulation

This was followed by a meeting with the Head of Department and some of the senior faculty members of the department in the conference room. During the discussion the following was highlighted

- The law department has been established in 1965 and follow the Howard Path wherein 40% is internal assessment and 60% exams.
- They offer a one year Master's program now along with the traditional two year Master's program. The one year Master's program is now offered across 5 specialisations
- From 2006 onwards they have introduced a compulsory dissertation component in their courses
- They are listed in the top 10 institutions in India
- They currently have 120 masters students and approximately 14 PhD students

The discussions for collaborative opportunities highlighted the below mentioned feasible options:

- Summer school courses offered by Prof. John Tingle (Nottingham Trent University) as it is a short and affordable program and provides a certificate at the end of the week long program
- Faculty exchange between the universities
- Visiting scholar program for 1-2 months
- Student exchange
- Joint research – to build on bilateral relationship between the faculties and develop programs
- Joint conferences to build portfolio
- Use of technology to deliver webinars
- Universities were also looking at joint LLM / Primary Master's degree where half the students intern with corporates or semester delivery in the UK while delivering the 2 year Master's degree or study via blended learning where they visit the UK university 3-4 times in a year and study independently the rest of the year via distance learning

Total student met: 75, Total faculty met: 5

Day three: 20 January: PM

[Symbiosis Law School](#)

The delegation was met by the Director Symbiosis Law School and Officer International Initiatives.

The delegation was welcomed by the Director Symbiosis Law School who gave an introduction to the institution and the courses offered. Post this the Officer for International Initiatives spoke about the role of the international cell and how it can help facilitate the various collaborations. Subsequent to these presentations the delegates proceeded to deliver their guest lectures in six individual classrooms. This was then followed by the faculty discussion.

The faculty discussion session in the conference room was attended by around seven senior faculty members from the department along with the director and officer International Initiatives.

The following points were discussed during the faculty interaction:

- Symbiosis Law school started offering the program with the state university and have now moved to deemed university status
- Symbiosis Law school are listed in the top 10 institutions in India and they compete with the National Law School in the listing since 2000

- Symbiosis Law school has more than 50 collaborations across the world (with countries including USA / Germany / Australia / Spain / France / Holland etc); so would like to collaborate with UK universities too
- They believe in nurturing of knowledge right from the UG level so as to develop well rounded personality and enable their students to specialise in their field of interest
- They would like to work on research projects across countries as they aim to be a world school
- They have a total student strength of 1738 across their various degree, diploma and certificate programs
- Their students get an opportunity to engage with both industry as well as NGOs during their program
- They are looking at faculty exchange / research exchange
- They also believe student exchange should be a two way process; this would help build on brand ambassadors both ways
- They are looking at their professors being paid grants to collect data and present paper with local teachers which are then published globally

The International Office spoke about the various aspects of Symbiosis University as a whole:

- They have students from 85 countries studying at Symbiosis
- They are open to all sorts of collaborations / faculty programs / global semester programs which can be looked into along with semester exchange / internships / credit exchange / tuition waivers / (partial / full) scholarships
- They can participate in summer school programs where up to 4 credits can be awarded
- They also offer the Study India program which can be customised in a 3-4 week program for UK students
- They can host a lecture series by a visiting faculty through their scholar in residence program

Thus there were conversations around the feasibility of:

- Dual degree qualifications being offered
- Credit transfer modules being looked into
- Offer student discounts / fee waivers / India specific scholarships based on partnership being worked out
- Establishing joint research programs
- Distance learning PhDs which can be supervised via Skype thus leading in knowledge sharing on a global platform

Total student met: 300, Total faculty met: 9

Day four: 21 January: AM

[New Law College, Pune](#)

The delegation was met by Dean Faculty of Law and the International and Placement office and the dean briefly introduced the institution to the delegation following which the delegates went onto deliver the guest lectures in 3 different classrooms as per the below order:

- Classroom 1:  
Dr.Simon Sneddon: Involvement of organised crime groups in the international trade in endangered species  
Prof. Charlotte Skeet: Human Rights
- Classroom 2:  
Prof.Mel Kenny: Harmonisation of transnational commercial law  
Prof.John Tingle; Medical and health law
- Classroom 3:  
Matthew Sadler: 'The Law of Obligations: Contract Law & Tort Law in our Everyday Lives'  
Prof.Andrew Baker: Structure of Bank Regulation

This was followed by the faculty discussion with the International and Placement officer and some senior faculty members.

The highlights of the faculty discussion at the local institution were as follows:

- They offer the 3 year and 5 year program at the UG level and the 1 year and 2 year Master's degrees at the PG level along with various diploma and certificate programs

- They currently have 1600 students at UG level and 160 students at PG level
- They are interested in exchanges but all collaborations need to be clear on paper and need to specify terms of reference and should talk about duration, fee structure, components involved, benefits to the Indian student taking this program, scholarships if any available to these students, internships / placement assistant and the point of contact (liaison officer) in the UK
- In the past they have had collaborations with Kings College, University of Reading, University of Sussex
- They are interested in research exchange / faculty exchange also
- They have requested that institutions leave behind information / send them information so that students are aware of options available.
- Short term summer programs in the UK can be promoted as that is when campuses are empty and accommodation can be taken care of by the university; so students can travel for a program that has both tourism and commercial aspect as part of it, as well as obtain a certificate to take back
- Last year they had held a MOOT court during which they had participants from University of Reading who participated through the web (as they could not travel)
- In 2002, they had 60 students travelling to University of Sussex who went onto experience the local culture and get a short introduction to UK Laws / English Law

Total student met: 160, Total faculty met: 6

The delegation then travelled to conclude the last leg of the mission in Kolkata on 22 January 2016. They visited two institutions specialising in law in Kolkata.

Day five: 20 January 2016. AM:

[National University of Juridical Sciences \(NUJS\)](#)

The delegation was met by the Vice Chancellor NUJS. The faculty members of NUJS have educational qualifications from leading international and national universities and the faculties have also been awarded prestigious scholarships and fellowships such as Rhodes, Fulbright, Commonwealth, Chevening and Felix to name a few.

1. Student Interaction: Presentations were delivered by the UK delegation to the student audience comprising of majorly undergraduate and master's program students. The topics were exhibited by the delegates in 3 different classrooms highlighting the importance of the areas presented.

Classroom 1:

Dr.Simon Sneddon: Involvement of organised crime groups in the international trade in endangered species

Prof. Charlotte Skeet: Human Rights

Classroom 2:

Prof.Mel Kenny: Harmonisation of transnational commercial law

Prof.John Tingle; Medical and health law

Classroom 3:

Matthew Sadler: 'The Law of Obligations: Contract Law & Tort Law in our Everyday Lives'

Prof.Andrew Baker: Structure of Bank Regulation

Overall observations from the delegation was that NUJS is one of the best institutions of law that they have visited and they would like to engage with NUJS for further future projects/collaborations

2. Faculty interaction: The Interaction began with introduction of UK delegates to the NUJS faculty. Eleven Faculty members were present for the meeting. Feasibility of faculty exchange in terms of working together or collaborating for international seminars and workshops. NUJS wanted to explore programmes which could be taught jointly through video conferencing and internet modes as well as periodic visits.

NUJS wants to undertake collaborative research and consultancy projects with industry and institutions to remain at the forefront of developments. A large number of collaborative research projects are under operation and they are interested in seeking further research collaborations on the academic forefront.

They welcome faculty and PhD students from partnering UK institutions for working on projects with their Indian counterparts. The joint research programs will enable students and faculty to share resources and research findings considering the difference in social ambits thereby enabling them with enhanced knowledge inputs.

NUJS wants to explore facility for students to procure scholarships, (GREAT, Commonwealth, Chevening, etc.) Also wants to promote any other opportunities for students for heightening their perceptions about education opportunities in the UK.

Additionally, NUJS would want to map their curriculum to match that of UK universities and see how it fits with the Bar Council of India's regulatory environment. They would ideally wish to map where they would want to be in the next 1/2/3 years – the progress for international development and collaboration. They wish to explore TNE/Distance learning facilities with UK universities.

Total student met: 51, Total faculty met: 11

Day five: 20 January 2016. PM:

[Heritage School of Law](#)

The delegation was met by the CEO Kalyan Bharti Trust, Director, Academic Advisor and Teacher-in-charge of Heritage Group of Institutions.

1. Student Interaction: Presentations were delivered by the UK delegation to the student audience. The topics were exhibited by the delegates in 3 different classrooms highlighting the importance of the areas presented. The topics were as follows:

Classroom 1: Dr.Simon Sneddon and Prof.Charlotte Skeet (Approximate attendance: 24 students)

Topics:

Involvement of organised crime groups in the international trade in endangered species by Dr.Simon Sneddon

Human Rights by Prof. Charlotte Skeet

Classroom 2: Matthew Sadler and Prof.Andrew Baker (Approximate attendance: 12 students)

Topics:

The Law of Obligations: Contract Law & Tort Law in our Everyday Lives' by Matthew Sadler

Structure of bank regulation by Prof.Andrew Baker

Classroom 3: Prof.Mel Kenny and Prof.John Tingle (Approximate attendance: 15 students)

Topics:

Harmonisation of transnational commercial law by Prof.Mel Kenny

Medical and health law by Prof.John Tingle

2. Faculty Interaction :

Twelve faculty members including the Dean of the Law School and Director of Heritage Group of Institutions) were present at the faculty discussion.

The Heritage Institute of Technology wants to research faculty exchange or collaborating for international seminars and workshops. Heritage being a new institution wants to undertake collaborative research and consultancy projects with industry and institutions.

They are interested in student exchange for their second year programme onwards being a new law institution. They are also willing to explore LLM or short term UG/PG courses as a part of value add.

Total student met: 60 Total faculty met: 12



## Feedback:

- Some of the institutions provided an apt environment for brand building and understanding the local market
- The delegates found the schedule quite hectic and would have appreciated only 1 visit per day or some kind of break / free day in the given schedule between travel to the various cities. They also felt that as most were new to the India market they would have liked to see some aspect of the city (be it cultural / local etc.)
- The institutions want British Council to take initiative to design and deliver a follow up strategy and create a mutually acceptable plan of action.

## Photographs taken at various institutions during the seminars



*Audience at Prof. Andrew Baker, Liverpool John Moores University and Prof. Matthew Saddler, Staffordshire University Session on 'The Law of Obligations: Contract Law & Tort Law in our Everyday Lives' and 'Structure of Bank Regulation' respectively*



*Delegates outside the main building at Pune University*



*Faculty discussion at Symbiosis Law School*



*In a MOOT Courtroom*



*At New Law College Pune*

*UK Academics addressing students at NUJS*



*Faculty discussion at NUJS*

