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Top NLUs Ranking for CLAT 2027

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Top NLUs Ranking for CLAT 2027: A Complete Guide for Law Aspirants

The bigger challenge often comes during counselling, when candidates must decide which NLUs to prioritize in their preference list.

This guide breaks down the top NLUs ranking, based on NIRF standings, CLAT closing ranks, placements, and overall reputation, to help you make an informed choice.

Why NLU Rankings Matter

India currently has 28 National Law Universities. Of these, 27 admit students through CLAT, while NLU Delhi is the exception — it conducts its own entrance exam,

AILET. With so many institutions offering a similar five-year integrated BA LLB structure, rankings become the primary tool for differentiating between them. Rankings matter because they reflect:

- **Faculty quality and research output** – how much original scholarship and teaching excellence an institution produces
- **Placement strength** – the kind of law firms, judiciary positions, and corporate roles graduates land
- **Infrastructure** – libraries, moot court facilities, hostels, and legal databases
- **Peer group and alumni network** – the quality of your batchmates and seniors, which shapes internships and career opportunities
- **Historical reputation** – how recruiters and the legal fraternity perceive a degree from that university

The most widely referenced ranking source is the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), released by the Ministry of Education. It evaluates law schools on five parameters: Teaching, Learning & Resources; Research and Professional Practice; Graduation Outcomes; Outreach and Inclusivity; and Perception.

Top NLUs Ranking 2027 (Based on NIRF and CLAT Trends)

Here is how the top NLUs currently stack up, combining NIRF standing with CLAT counselling performance:

1. National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bangalore

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Aspect	Details
Institute	National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bangalore
NIRF Ranking	Held the number one position consistently since 2022
CLAT Counselling Status	Most sought-after NLU in CLAT counselling

Established	1986 — the first NLU in India
Reputation	Often called the "Harvard of India" in legal circles
Closing Rank (General Category)	Approximately top 100–120 — toughest NLU to get into
Areas of Special Reputation	Constitutional Law, Policy Research, Master's in Public Policy program

2. National Law University, Delhi (NLUD)

National Law University (NLU), Delhi

Aspect	Details
Institute	National Law University (NLU), Delhi
National Ranking	Consistently ranks second nationally
Admission Exam	Does not use CLAT — candidates must clear AILET instead
Relevance to CLAT Aspirants	Tracked as a benchmark by most CLAT aspirants; many students appear for both exams
Campus	Compact campus with strong faculty
Location Advantage	Proximity to the Supreme Court, ministries, and top law firms
Key Strength	Exceptional exposure to litigation and policy work

Future judges if you want to became a best lawyer you can go with NLUD it provide broader future options

3. NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad

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Aspect	Details
Institute	NALSAR (National Academy of Legal Studies and Research)
Overall Ranking	Firmly in the top three among NLUs for years
Reputation	Frequently seen as the strongest CLAT-admitted alternative to NLSIU
Closing Rank (General Category)	Approximately 150–170
Areas of Special Reputation	Intellectual Property (IP) Law, Technology Law
Placement Strength	Draws some of the best corporate law firm recruiters in the country

NALSAR has remained firmly in the **top three** for years and is frequently seen as the TOP NLU for bright future

4. West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (WBNUJS), Kolkata

Also known as NUJS, this university has stayed in the top five NIRF rankings and is a strong CLAT choice, with closing ranks typically in the **280–330** range. **WBNUJS** is well known for human rights law and corporate law specializations, and it often reports some of the highest average placement packages among NLUs.

5. Gujarat National Law University (GNLU), Gandhinagar

GNLU has shown consistent upward movement in rankings and entered the national top five in recent NIRF cycles. It offers one of the most diverse sets of undergraduate programs among NLUs, including **BA LLB, BBA LLB, BCom LLB, BSc LLB, and BSW LLB. Its closing rank typically hovers between 420–480.**

NALSAR University of Law — Quick Overview

Aspect	Details

Institute	NALSAR (National Academy of Legal Studies and Research)
Overall Ranking	Firmly in the top three among NLUs for years
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Beyond Rankings: Factors to Consider While Choosing an NLU

Factor	Details
Career Goals — Corporate Law	Prioritize NLSIU, NALSAR, WBNUJS, GNLU, and NLU Jodhpur
Career Goals — Judiciary/Civil Services	Consider RMLNLU Lucknow or CNLU Patna, which have strong track records despite lower NIRF rank
Location Advantages	NLUs in metros (Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Kolkata) offer better internship access to top law firms due to proximity
Specialization — Maritime Law	NUALS Kochi
Specialization — Energy Law	RGNUL Patiala
Specialization — Environmental Law	HPNLU Shimla

Specialization — Technology Law	NALSAR
Financial Considerations	Annual tuition ranges from ₹80,000–1,20,000 (newer/state-subsidized NLUs) to over ₹2,00,000 (NLSIU Bangalore); factor in total 5-year cost and scholarships
Campus Culture & Peer Group	Talk to current students/alumni; academic culture, faculty accessibility, and moot court culture matter as much as ranking

Tip: Use rankings as a starting point, but weigh them against your career goals, budget, and campus fit before finalizing your preference list.
While rankings offer a useful starting point, they shouldn't be the only factor guiding your

Preference Filling Strategy for CLAT Counselling

A common mistake CLAT aspirants make is filling only a handful of NLU preferences, hoping for a Tier 1 seat and missing out on a Tier 2 or Tier 3 option they might actually have qualified for. The general strategic advice is:

1. **List all 27 CLAT-participating NLUs** in your preference order, even if some are far down the list. This maximizes your chances of getting a seat somewhere rather than losing eligibility altogether.
2. **Rank by realistic expectation**, not just aspiration — cross-check your CLAT rank against historical closing ranks for each NLU.
3. **Balance ranking with fit** — a Tier 2 NLU with strong placements in your area of interest may serve you better than a Tier 1 NLU where you'd be at the bottom of the merit list.
4. **Watch the counselling window closely** — CLAT counselling typically opens in mid-to-late December and closes within about ten days, so preference lists need to be finalized without last-minute rushing.

placement is most important criteria for classify the NLUs list

so track every year NIRF ranking ,placment,campus culture and all wisely
Rankings and closing ranks mentioned in this article are based on recent NIRF cycles and CLAT counselling trends, and are subject to change with each admission cycle.

Aspirants are advised to verify the latest official notifications from the CLAT Consortium and NIRF before finalizing their preference lists.