

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## **How is an MA in law different from an LLM in law?**

An LLM is a postgraduate degree program which grants law graduates (LLBs) with a masters in law degree. While undergraduate degrees in law are general in nature the LLMs tend to be specialised (for instance in Business laws or in human rights). The MA in Law, Politics and Society is the first MA degree offered with a special focus on law. It enables all graduates - law and non law- to apply, and while this does not make you a lawyer or enable you to practice law, the degree focusses on the overlap between law and other disciplines such as politics, sociology and history. For non lawyers it introduces them to a specific set of analytical skills which allow them to understand doctrinal law, legal history and public policy better. The sphere of law touches almost every walk of life and it is difficult to imagine any public issue in India which does not eventually become a legal and constitutional matter. It is with this in mind that we have designed the MA program to be one that focusses both on foundational courses in legal reasoning, as well as covering a range of contemporary legal issues and debates. If you are interested in legal practice then you may want to consider getting an LLB but if you are interested in an academic career, research, policy work or in charting out new disciplines, this course equips you with the necessary skills to navigate the complex world of law, politics and society.

## **Will I be able to manage without a law degree?**

Yes, the course is designed keeping in mind the fact that many students will not come with a law degree or possess any advanced knowledge of law or legal institutions. The core courses are a combination of theoretical courses (such as jurisprudence and constitutional theory & history) as well as courses which are more skills oriented (Legal method), while the electives will introduce you to specialised area of scholarship including cutting edge socio legal questions. Together they combine theoretical with practical knowledge and will equip you to work on legal issues with confidence.

## **What are the kind of job prospects I can expect after graduating from SLGC**

There are a number of career options which are available for you after graduating with an MA in Law, society and politics. Apart from the standard options such as a teaching position in universities, colleges and law schools, there are also new opportunities that have opened out in recent years. There are a number of independent research institutions, think tanks and policy analysis centers that have emerged in the last decade. A number of them require people with multiple skills who can navigate the world of law and policy while being grounded or familiar with the process of social science research. Human rights organisations civil society groups often combine activism with advocacy as well as research and graduates may consider a career in such organisations. Finally with the advent of corporate social responsibility (“CSR”) we will see many more philanthropic initiatives in India, all of which require an understanding of the macro level legal or policy issues along with an ability to apply the same to a local context. Finally, we would encourage students to also chart out new possibilities by starting new areas of practice, research and service provision. To illustrate with just one example, the domain of art and law is not really a well established area of practice, but the rise of the art market and the number of transactions has meant an increase in demand for professionals skilled and equipped with legal as well as aesthetic knowledge.