

## **Report on Online Sessions and Camping on LLM Dissertation Guidance**

Symbiosis Law School, Pune, hosted a series of insightful online sessions and camping events from 29th April 2024 to 30th April 2024. The events were specifically designed to help LLM students hone their research skills and guide them through the dissertation-writing process, under the expert mentorship of Prof. Dr. T.R. Subramanya. With over 70 students in attendance across various sessions, the event provided valuable learning opportunities for students specializing in Constitutional and Administrative Law, as well as Human Rights Law.

### **Session 1: 'Important Approaches of Legal Research Methodology' – 29th April 2024, 9:45 am to 11:45 am**

The first session, titled "Important Approaches of Legal Research Methodology," took place on the morning of 29th April 2024, from 9:45 am to 11:45 am. This session was crucial for LLM students, especially those who were just beginning to familiarize themselves with the nuances of legal research. Prof. Dr. T.R. Subramanya began by explaining the foundational principles of legal research and methodology. He emphasized the significance of understanding the research framework and adopting a systematic approach to exploring legal issues.

Prof. Dr. Subramanya highlighted various research methodologies, including doctrinal research, non-doctrinal research, empirical research, and comparative research, explaining their relevance to different areas of law. He discussed the importance of choosing the right methodology based on the research question and the objectives of the study. For example, doctrinal research is often used in Constitutional and Administrative Law, while empirical and non-doctrinal research might be more applicable in fields like Human Rights Law, where real-world data and case studies are integral.

The session also provided practical tips on conducting literature reviews, identifying research gaps, and utilizing legal databases and resources. Prof. Dr. Subramanya emphasized the need for critical analysis, encouraging students to not merely summarize existing literature but to question and challenge it, creating a foundation for original contributions to the field of law. Students were also introduced to the concept of inter-disciplinary research, where law intersects with disciplines like political science, economics, and sociology, particularly relevant to human rights and public policy research.

### **Session 2: Camping for Constitutional and Administrative Law Students – 29th April 2024, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

Later in the afternoon, Prof. Dr. Subramanya conducted a specialized camping session on "Expert Guidance on LLM Dissertation" for students specializing in Constitutional and Administrative Law. Held from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, the session was focused on providing in-depth guidance on how to effectively structure and write an LLM dissertation, particularly in the complex fields of Constitutional and Administrative Law.

Prof. Dr. Subramanya began by addressing the challenges students often face when selecting a dissertation topic. He advised students to choose topics that are both narrow enough to allow for detailed research but broad enough to contribute to the existing body of knowledge in Constitutional Law. He emphasized the importance of selecting a topic that not only interests the student but also has practical relevance in the current legal and political landscape.

The professor also provided specific advice on structuring the dissertation. He outlined the essential components, including the introduction, literature review, research methodology, analysis of legal principles, case law, and a conclusion that offers novel insights or recommendations for reform. In the context of Constitutional and Administrative Law, students were advised to focus on constitutional interpretation, the role of the judiciary in upholding constitutional values, and the evolving nature of administrative law in response to modern governance challenges.

Throughout the session, Prof. Dr. Subramanya encouraged students to engage critically with their sources and maintain a balanced approach in presenting arguments. He warned against the over-reliance on primary sources like statutes and case law, advising students to complement these with secondary sources that provide a broader understanding of the political, historical, and social context.

The session also covered research tools and techniques specific to Constitutional and Administrative Law, including the use of comparative legal analysis to study the legal systems of different countries. Prof. Dr. Subramanya shared examples from his own research and experience, offering practical insights into how to navigate complex legal issues and write a coherent and persuasive dissertation.

### **Session 3: Camping for Human Rights Law Students – 30th April 2024, 9:45 am to 11:45 am**

On the morning of 30th April 2024, Prof. Dr. Subramanya conducted a follow-up camping session for students specializing in Human Rights Law. This session, held from 9:45 am to 11:45 am, focused on providing expert guidance tailored to the unique challenges of writing a dissertation in the field of human rights law.

Human rights law often deals with complex, evolving, and controversial issues, and Prof. Dr. Subramanya guided students through the process of navigating these challenges in their dissertations. He advised students to consider both international human rights frameworks, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and regional human rights conventions, as well as domestic legal systems that may have specific provisions on human rights protections.

The session covered key topics such as the intersection of human rights and public policy, the role of international organizations in enforcing human rights, and the growing importance of human rights law in addressing global challenges like climate change and migration. Prof. Dr. Subramanya emphasized the importance of a multi-dimensional approach to research, considering the legal, political, and sociological aspects of human rights issues. Students were encouraged to use empirical research, case studies, and data analysis to substantiate their arguments, especially when dealing with human rights violations in specific jurisdictions.

The session also provided guidance on identifying appropriate research questions and developing a clear hypothesis. Prof. Dr. Subramanya stressed the importance of ethical considerations, particularly when conducting research involving vulnerable populations or sensitive topics. He encouraged students to be mindful of the socio-political implications of their research and to consider the broader impact of their findings on human rights advocacy and policy.

## **Session 4: ‘How to Write an LLM Dissertation – Research Perspectives’ – 30th April 2024, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

The final session of the series, titled “How to Write an LLM Dissertation – Research Perspectives,” was held in the afternoon of 30th April 2024, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. This session brought together the key concepts covered in the previous sessions and provided students with a holistic view of the dissertation writing process, with a particular focus on research methodologies, structure, and the importance of legal analysis.

Prof. Dr. Subramanya shared his vast experience in mentoring students and researchers throughout the dissertation process, offering students a step-by-step guide on how to approach their work. The session delved into practical strategies for overcoming common obstacles in dissertation writing, such as procrastination, writer’s block, and difficulty in narrowing down a research focus. He highlighted the significance of regular feedback from supervisors and the need for constant revision and refinement of ideas.

In closing, Prof. Dr. Subramanya urged students to view the dissertation not just as an academic requirement but as an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the legal field. He encouraged students to take ownership of their research and embrace the challenge of producing original, insightful, and impactful legal scholarship.

### **Conclusion**

The series of online sessions and camping events organized by Symbiosis Law School, Pune, provided invaluable guidance to LLM students, preparing them to undertake the challenging process of writing their dissertations. Prof. Dr. T.R. Subramanya’s expertise in legal research methodology and dissertation writing empowered students across Constitutional, Administrative, and Human Rights Law disciplines. The interactive sessions, practical advice, and in-depth discussions provided students with the necessary tools and strategies to navigate their research and produce high-quality legal scholarship. The success of these sessions was evident in the active participation of students and their eagerness to apply the lessons learned to their academic work.