

CLAT PG vs AILET PG 2027: Key Differences, Exam Pattern, Syllabus & Which Is Better?

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CLAT PG vs AILET PG 2027 - which examination should you prepare for? This is one of the most common questions among law graduates planning to pursue an LL.M. from a National Law University in India.

Both are major entrance examinations for postgraduate legal education, but they differ in the universities accepting their scores, number of questions, examination pattern, application fees and admission process.

The biggest difference is simple: CLAT PG provides admission opportunities at participating National Law Universities, while AILET PG is the entrance examination for the one-year LL.M. programme at National Law University Delhi (NLU Delhi).

For CLAT PG 2027, candidates must attempt 120 multiple-choice questions in 120 minutes. AILET PG 2027 has 100 multiple-choice questions in the same duration. Both deduct 0.25 marks for every incorrect answer.

In this article, we compare **CLAT PG and AILET PG 2027** using official admission and examination information to help you decide which test to take and how to prepare for both.

CLAT PG vs AILET PG 2027: Quick Comparison

Particulars	CLAT PG 2027	AILET PG 2027
Full form	Common Law Admission Test - Postgraduate	All India Law Entrance Test - Postgraduate
Conducting body	Consortium of National Law Universities	National Law University Delhi
Admission opportunities	LL.M. programmes at participating NLUs	One-year LL.M. at NLU Delhi

Exam date	6 December 2026	13 December 2026
Exam timing	2 PM – 4 PM	2 PM – 4 PM
Exam mode	Offline	Offline (OMR-based)
Number of questions	120	100
Maximum marks	120	100
Exam duration	120 minutes	120 minutes
Question format	MCQs based on legal subjects, including extracts from primary legal materials	MCQs from different branches of law
Correct answer	+1 mark	+1 mark
Incorrect answer	–0.25 mark	–0.25 mark
General qualifying degree requirement	LL.B. or equivalent	LL.B. or equivalent
General minimum qualifying marks	50%	50%
SC/ST/PwD minimum qualifying marks	45%	45%
Upper age limit	None	None
General application fee	₹4,000	₹3,000

Important: The exam dates, fees and patterns above refer specifically to the 2027 admission cycle. University-wise admission rules, seat availability, reservations and programme offerings must be checked separately.

1. CLAT PG vs AILET PG: Conducting Body and Colleges

The first major difference between the two entrance examinations is the institution responsible for conducting them and the universities at which their scores are used.

What is CLAT PG?

The Common Law Admission Test for Postgraduate programmes (CLAT PG) is conducted by the Consortium of National Law Universities.

The Consortium consists of 26 member National Law Universities, although candidates must check the individual 2027 postgraduate brochures to establish which institutions and LL.M. programmes participate in the relevant admission process.

CLAT PG is useful for candidates who want to consider multiple postgraduate law programmes rather than applying to only one university.

Participating institutions may include well-known National Law Universities such as NALSAR Hyderabad, NLSIU Bengaluru, WBNUJS Kolkata and NLU Jodhpur, subject to their respective admission brochures and programme availability.

What is AILET PG?

The All India Law Entrance Test for Postgraduate programmes (AILET PG) is conducted by National Law University Delhi.

For the 2027 admission cycle, AILET PG is the entrance route for the one-year LL.M. programme at NLU Delhi.

A crucial point for aspirants: NLU Delhi does not admit students to its regular one-year LL.M. through CLAT PG.

Therefore, candidates specifically targeting NLU Delhi should apply for AILET PG.

Which is better?

If you want to keep your LL.M. university options broad, CLAT PG can be particularly useful.

If NLU Delhi is your preferred institution, AILET PG is essential for the regular admission route.

For students eligible for both examinations, applying for both can provide greater flexibility.

2. CLAT PG vs AILET PG 2027: Exam Pattern

Although both examinations test legal knowledge, their official question-paper formats are different.

CLAT PG 2027 exam pattern

Particular	Details
Total questions	120
Maximum marks	120
Duration	2 hours
Question type	Multiple-choice
Marking for correct answer	+1
Marking for incorrect answer	−0.25
Main assessment emphasis	Legal comprehension, reasoning and application

The CLAT PG 2027 syllabus expressly describes questions based on extracts from judgments, statutes and regulations.

Candidates are expected to identify legal issues, understand arguments, interpret material and apply relevant legal knowledge.

Therefore, reading comprehension and a conceptual understanding of judgments can be especially valuable.

AILET PG 2027 exam pattern

Particular	Details
Total questions	100
Maximum marks	100
Duration	2 hours
Question type	Multiple-choice

Marking for correct answer	+1
Marking for incorrect answer	−0.25
Main assessment emphasis	Different branches of law

NLU Delhi's official AILET PG 2027 examination scheme specifies that all 100 MCQs will come from different branches of law.

The published scheme does not prescribe a fixed subject-wise question distribution.

Candidates should therefore prepare the major areas of law rather than relying on a predicted number of questions from each subject.

Which examination has more questions?

CLAT PG has 20 more questions than AILET PG.

On average, candidates have:

- **CLAT PG:** 1 minute per question.
- **AILET PG:** 1.2 minutes, or 72 seconds, per question.

These are simple averages, not recommended time limits for each question. Longer passages and difficult questions may require additional time.

Because CLAT PG has a higher number of questions in the same examination duration, time management can be particularly important.

However, the number of questions alone does not establish which examination is harder.

3. CLAT PG vs AILET PG Syllabus 2027

There is substantial overlap in the legal subjects students should prepare for the two examinations.

CLAT PG 2027 syllabus

According to the official Consortium of NLUs syllabus, CLAT PG 2027 covers the following subjects:

1. Constitutional Law
2. Jurisprudence
3. Administrative Law
4. Law of Contract
5. Torts
6. Family Law
7. Criminal Law
8. Property Law
9. Company Law
10. Public International Law
11. Tax Law
12. Environmental Law
13. Labour and Industrial Law

The official syllabus places particular emphasis on comprehension of legal materials, including judicial decisions, legislation and regulations.

AILET PG 2027 syllabus

NLU Delhi's official AILET PG 2027 examination scheme states that the question paper will consist of 100 MCQs from different branches of law.

Unlike the CLAT PG syllabus, this examination scheme does not publish a detailed subject-wise allocation of questions.

For practical preparation, students can revise the major foundational law subjects covered during an LL.B. degree, including Constitutional Law, Jurisprudence, Criminal Law, Contract Law, Administrative Law and other important areas.

This is a recommended preparation approach, not an official AILET PG subject-wise weightage chart.

Key difference in syllabus and preparation

The most significant difference is the way the official examination schemes describe assessment.

CLAT PG expressly emphasizes the comprehension and application of primary legal materials. AILET PG specifies MCQs from different branches of law without prescribing the same passage-based structure.

This means CLAT PG aspirants should place particular emphasis on interpreting judgments and statutory passages, while candidates preparing for AILET PG should also practise a broad range of law-subject MCQs.

Importantly, preparing for one examination can support preparation for the other because both demand a strong legal foundation.

4. CLAT PG vs AILET PG Eligibility Criteria 2027

The basic academic eligibility requirements for the two examinations are similar.

CLAT PG eligibility

For CLAT PG 2027, candidates need:

- An LL.B. degree or equivalent qualification.
- At least 50% marks or an equivalent grade.
- At least 45% marks or equivalent grade for SC/ST/PwD candidates.

Candidates appearing for the qualifying examination in 2027 are also eligible to apply, subject to producing proof of passing at the time of admission.

There is no upper age limit.

AILET PG eligibility

For AILET PG 2027, applicants generally need:

- An LL.B. degree or equivalent qualification from a recognized university.
- At least 50% aggregate marks.
- At least 45% aggregate marks for SC/ST/PwD candidates.

Candidates awaiting their qualifying examination results may apply, but must satisfy the eligibility requirements by the cut-off date notified by NLU Delhi.

There is no minimum or maximum age limit for appearing in AILET 2027.

Foreign National and OCI/PIO admission categories have additional rules and should be checked separately on the official admissions websites.

Eligibility comparison

For most Indian applicants, the minimum academic percentage requirement is the same.

The difference lies primarily in admission administration, document-verification procedures, and institution-specific requirements.

5. CLAT PG vs AILET PG 2027: Important Dates

Both admission examinations take place in December 2026 for the academic year 2027–28.

Event	CLAT PG 2027	AILET PG 2027
Application opening	3 August 2026	7 August 2026
Application deadline	31 October 2026	10 November 2026
Exam date	6 December 2026	13 December 2026
Exam time	2 PM – 4 PM	2 PM – 4 PM
Duration	120 minutes	120 minutes

The two examinations are scheduled exactly one week apart.

This gives eligible students an opportunity to appear for both rather than choosing between overlapping examination dates.

However, candidates should not rely on the gap alone for preparation. Ideally, they should complete the common syllabus before the first examination and use the intervening period for targeted revision.

Important for 2027 aspirants: The CLAT PG application deadline is currently 31 October 2026, while the AILET PG application deadline is 10 November 2026. Any subsequent official revisions will take precedence.

6. CLAT PG vs AILET PG Application Fees 2027

The application fees differ between the two examinations.

Category	CLAT PG 2027	AILET PG 2027
General category	₹4,000	₹3,000
OBC category	₹4,000	₹3,000
SC/ST category	₹3,500	₹1,000
PwD category	₹3,500	₹1,000
Qualifying BPL applicants	₹3,500 under CLAT's notified eligible categories	Exemption for eligible SC/ST women BPL applicants under NLU Delhi's stated rule

The table summarises the main published fee categories. Candidates should review the full official category provisions before payment.

CLAT PG also lists an additional ₹500 charge for previous-year question papers when purchased through its application process.

The application fees are separate from university tuition fees, hostel charges, admission fees and other costs associated with pursuing an LL.M.

7. CLAT PG vs AILET PG: Seats and Admission Opportunities

The number and distribution of available seats matter when choosing between the examinations.

CLAT PG admission opportunities

CLAT PG serves the participating National Law Universities that offer postgraduate programmes through the Consortium's admission system.

However, the Consortium's 26 member institutions should not be confused with a guaranteed list of 26 available LL.M. admission destinations. Candidates must review the 2027 brochures for participating postgraduate programmes, seats and eligibility.

Seat counts, reservation policies, tuition fees and specializations differ across universities.

AILET PG admission opportunities

NLU Delhi's published AILET 2027 LL.M. seat matrix lists:

Seat category	Seats
General	32
OBC (Non-Creamy Layer)	15
Scheduled Castes	11
Scheduled Tribes	5
Economically Weaker Section	7
Subtotal	70
Kashmiri Migrants (supernumerary)	1
Foreign Nationals and OCI/PIO	10
Grand total	81

PwD reservations operate horizontally within the relevant categories. Other horizontal reservation provisions also apply under NLU Delhi's published rules.

The number of seats available through the regular AILET merit process is therefore not simply interchangeable with the grand total of 81.

Which offers better admission opportunities?

CLAT PG generally gives candidates a broader range of institutional choices through participating universities.

AILET PG offers a focused opportunity to join NLU Delhi.

Consequently, students interested in multiple NLUs may prefer to prioritize CLAT PG, while those targeting NLU Delhi must prioritize AILET PG.

8. CLAT PG vs AILET PG: Which Exam Is Tougher?

There is no official measurement establishing that CLAT PG is universally harder than AILET PG or vice versa.

Difficulty depends on the actual question paper, a candidate's strengths, familiarity with legal subjects, reading speed and accuracy.

Nevertheless, some practical differences are worth understanding.

Why CLAT PG may feel challenging

- It contains 120 questions in two hours.
- The official syllabus emphasizes comprehension of extracts from primary legal materials.
- Questions may require careful interpretation and application of legal principles.
- Candidates must balance reading speed with accuracy.

Why AILET PG may feel challenging

- The examination tests knowledge across different branches of law.
- The published scheme does not guarantee fixed subject-wise weightages.
- Admission through AILET PG is focused on a single institution, NLU Delhi.
- Applicants must maintain accuracy because incorrect answers attract negative marking.

Our assessment: CLAT PG preparation should pay particular attention to passage comprehension and legal application. AILET PG preparation should include extensive subject-wise MCQ practice and comprehensive revision.

Neither examination should be considered easy merely because it has fewer questions.

9. CLAT PG or AILET PG: Which Is Better for LL.M.?

The better examination depends on the candidate's university preferences, academic goals, desired specialization and financial considerations.

Choose CLAT PG if:

- You want to apply to several participating National Law Universities.

- You prefer to keep multiple LL.M. admission options open.
- You want to compare programmes, specializations and fees across institutions.
- You are comfortable preparing for passage-oriented legal questions.

Choose AILET PG if:

- Your primary goal is admission to NLU Delhi.
- You want to focus on the university's one-year LL.M. programme.
- You can prepare for comprehensive law-subject MCQs.
- The university's academic offering aligns with your postgraduate objectives.

Should you appear for both examinations?

For most eligible candidates interested in National Law Universities, **preparing for both CLAT PG and AILET PG is a sensible strategy.**

The overlapping legal syllabus can make combined preparation practical.

[Check out CLAT PG 2027 syllabus and exam pattern.](#)