

Kathmandu School of Law
Suryabinayak-4, Dadhikot
Bagmati Province
Nepal

**A Review Report
Research Grant 2021**

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1. KSL: An Overview

Kathmandu School of Law, established in 2000 AD, an affiliated college of Purbanchal University, is a community-based, non-profit academic institution that upholds its unrestrained commitment for a pragmatic, research-based and community responsive legal cum justice education in the country. It was conceptualized within the ambit of non-profit movement dedicated to serve the need of an academically sound and functionally feasible justice education in Nepal. Hence, just within two decades, it has not just shaped legal education in the nation with its innovative courses and teaching pedagogies but also widened the scope of law developing quality legal professionals.

Since its inception, it is persistently serving the aspirations of students and scholars with diverse backgrounds. Being candid in expression, it has brought about a paradigm shift in the field of legal education with its state-of-the-art approaches including clinical and community outreach programs in the curricula and research-based teaching methodology. Thus, it heralds a new beginning in the less-trodden field of legal education in terms of its motive, approach, quality and international standing. It envisions fostering the institution as the center of excellence worth capable to contribute to the positive transformation of the nation into a functional democracy based on rule of law, human rights and good governance. Mission of KSL is to promote Justice through enhanced legal education for social engineering and value-based professionalism.

2. Objectives

Among many, some of objectives of KSL are as follows...

- 1) To provide a conducive educational platform where law students build on empirical method of learning legal concepts and skills in an interdisciplinary approach.
- 2) To develop legal professionals that are able to cater to the socio-economic and development needs of disenfranchised people in particular.
- 3) To shape the legal landscape of Nepal where international standards are given due respect and enforcement.
- 4) To endow law students with the expertise and exposure to represent the cases of national interests in the international setting.

3. Research Grant 2021

Research as one of most prioritized features, KSL conducts various research induced activities and Research Grant is one of them. Research Grant refers to the grant/fellowship provided by the college in two different categories i. e. Students and Faculties. The amount for Grant provided was 30,000 and 50,000 to students and faculties, respectively. The institution is thinking to increase the amount of Grant in upcoming years; however, COVID posed some severe challenges on such issues even in the previous years. For 2021, Research Department has planned to award 15 plus proposals in total, thus; at least the sphere of beneficiaries may increase at good scale. Students of BALLB Third, Fourth and Fifth year, LLM First and Second year and full time faculty were eligible for the submission of the proposal except some reservations set on Research Grant Guideline of KSL. Call for the grant is made in each

year and the researchers are selected on the basis of the anonymous evaluation of the proposals submitted.

The call for research grant 2021 was done on March 2021 effective to both the teachers and students. The research areas and the themes for both students and teachers were fixed namely on the topic:

- a. Constitutional Law/ Parliamentary Process/ Democracy
- b. Criminal & Civil Law
- c. Human Rights 4. Development and Environment
- d. Society and Politics
- e. International Law
- f. International Humanitarian Law and Conflict Resolution
- g. International Relations, Diplomacy and Security Studies
- h. Business, Trade and Commerce

4. Guidelines

The Given Guidelines, at the time of call, were as follows...

1. The research proposals will be evaluated by at-least two people from the Research Department or the full time faculty selected by Research Department if done in the given format and submitted within the stipulated time.
2. The evaluating committee will be different for both students and teachers. In-case of students: Bachelor's and Master's students will be evaluated differently.
3. Evaluation criteria will be set. No information regarding the evaluator will be provided to the researchers.
4. The number of the grants to be provided after the evaluation of the proposal will be decided by the Research Department after discussing it with the college administration.
5. At-least 50 percent marks should be scored to provide the grants to the researchers.
6. In case of selection of the teachers as evaluators of the researchers for the grant, teachers applying for the grants cannot be selected as evaluator of the students.

5. The Research Grant Guideline

Please Check KSL Website and Further Click on Updated Rules and Guidelines

<https://ksl.edu.np/assets/uploads/d6bbc-4.-resercah-grant-guidelines.pdf>

6. Research Grant: Reflection Detail 2021

Grants for Faculty

Issues	Total Number	Professors	Assoc. Prof.	Asst. Prof.	Male	Female	Single	Group
Submitted Proposals	6	0	2	6	3	5	4	2
Selected Proposals	3	0	2	2	2	2	2	1
Completed Task	2	0	1	2	1	2	1	1
Uncompleted Task	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0

Grants for Students

Issues	Total Number	3 rd Year	4 th Year	5 th Year	LLM 1 st	LLM 2 nd	Male	Female	Single	Group
Submitted Proposals	15	4	5	1	4	1	9	12	10	5
Selected Proposals	5	1	1	1	2	0	4	5	2	3
Completed Task	5	1	1	0	2	0	3	4	2	2
Uncompleted Task	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1

The above tables consist of two groups: Full Time Faculty and Students.

7. Departmental Engagement

From making Call for Proposals to Completion of Research Grant 2021, the department had an active engagement in following tasks.

- a) Making a call for proposals.
- b) Collecting proposals.
- c) Developing evaluation forms and nominating evaluators.
- d) Sending anonymous proposals for evaluation.
- e) Receiving evaluations and publishing results.
- f) Contracting researchers.
- g) Developing time-line chart and working template along with key expected sections.
- h) Conducting Regular follow-up meetings with researchers in certain interval.
- i) Collecting research articles.
- j) Developing article evaluation form and nominating external examiners.
- k) Sending article for anonymous external evaluation.
- l) Receiving feedbacks and reverting to researchers for improvement.
- m) Receiving articles and report after improvement as per the review feedbacks.
- n) Sending the articles to KSLR for publication process.
- o) Informing Account section that the research work is over.

8. Conclusion

In case of faculties, there were total 6 proposals submitted and out of which there were 2 group proposals and 4 individual proposals. The total number of faculties involved was 8 out of which 5 were female and 3 were male. Among the 6 submitted proposals, 3 were selected and out of 3 submitted proposals two proposals were completed and one was incomplete as the researcher withdrew the research work citing health reason.

In case of students, there were total 15 proposals submitted from various batches of Bachelor's and Master's. Out of those, there were 5 group proposals and 10 individual proposals,. The total number of students involved was 21; out of which, 9 were male and 12 were female. All the tasks were completed.

9. Key Observations

1. The Research Department feels even setting waiting list of proposals to that it can be immediately transferred to merit-based subsequent in case of withdrawal from any faculty or student.
2. Department is thrilled to note remarkable participation of female researchers in both categories.
3. Since some tasks are uncompleted, the department feels it pertinent to inquire about due and dedicated commitment of awardees before signing the contract.