



IDIA Disability Access Research and Policy Team (2026-27) | Call for Applications

The Research and Policy Wing (IRAP) and the Disability Access Programme (IDAP) of [IDIA](#) are ramping up efforts through a comprehensive, systematic research and advocacy programme to address the barriers to access faced by persons with disabilities across institutions within the country's legal education and employment ecosystem. To this end, we are forming a Disability Access Research and Policy Team of up to fifteen members, which would include researchers and designers, for the 2026–27 term, to conduct research, prepare reports, and assist the IDIA Team in the advocacy process.

Role of the Team Members and Learning Opportunity

Research: Conducting surveys and review of, *inter alia*: (a) students with disabilities, student leaders, faculty, and administration across NLUs; (b) accessibility compliance by NLUs, including reservation policies, and physical and academic infrastructure; (c) online legal databases; (d) CLAT infrastructure; and (e) technological and physical infrastructure of law firms. Conducting research of extant and developing jurisprudence vis-à-vis disability laws and policies.

Drafting: Reports based on the surveys and reviews conducted above; a model accessibility policy for NLUs; and manuals for setting up and operating accessibility labs, and pedagogical methodologies for faculties and administrative staff of NLUs. You will also be required to prepare primers, newsletters, and blog posts on disability laws and policies.

Advocacy: IDIA will present these reports to relevant institutions and advocate for the implementation of the recommended policy changes. In order to give you the opportunity to engage with the advocacy process, you will be encouraged to attend in-person and online meetings with relevant institutional heads and functionaries, including Vice-Chancellors, Registrars, faculty and administrative staff across NLUs; the CLAT Consortium; legal database providers; law firms; and disability rights practitioners and academics, alongside the IDIA Team.

Eligibility

Students in the third, fourth or fifth year of a law degree at any of the 26 NLUs. Students with disabilities are encouraged to apply. The role is remote and part-time. We are looking for candidates who have proficiency in research and writing. We also have limited slots for people with proficiency in designing, including Canva. We are restricting this call for applications to NLUs solely because we would need team members at the NLU Campuses to coordinate with various stakeholders.

What you will receive

A certificate on completion of the term, and named credit as a contributor on all the research output you work on, including published reports, policy documents, and manuals.



How to apply

Email the following to irap@idialaw.org by 11.59 pm on 26th August 2026, with the subject line “Application - Disability Access Research and Policy Team 2026-27 - [Your Name]”. Additionally:

1. Please attach an updated curriculum vitae.
2. If you are applying as a researcher:
 - (a) Your answers to the two questions set out below. The answers should be written in the body of the email; and
 - (b) Share a link to an academic writing sample you have published (journal article/blog post/report).
3. If you are applying as a designer, then please share a sample of designed material.

Please note that we will be selecting only 1 or 2 designers in the team. You may apply for both the positions as well. Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed online in September 2026.

Contact for further queries: Bhavya Johari, bhavyajohari@idialaw.org | Kirtikar Srivastava, kirtikar@idialaw.org

Application Questions

Instructions:

- Answer both questions. Each answer must be within 200 words.
- Write in your own words. Answers are read for judgment and precision, not for length or vocabulary.
- Do not use generative artificial intelligence to draft your answers. Answers that read as machine-generated will be set aside.

Question 1: Identify one barrier to access faced by students with disabilities at your own university. It may be physical, academic, digital or administrative. Name the specific office or officer who has the authority to remove it, set out the case you would put to that person, and state what evidence you would need to gather before putting it. Then say what you would do if the request were refused.

Question 2: The programme will gather accessibility information from four groups across the National Law Universities: students with disabilities, student leaders, faculty, and administrative staff. Choose one group. Explain whether you would approach that group by questionnaire, by interview or by both, and why. Identify one important question you would ask them. Then identify one reason a respondent from that group might give you an incomplete or misleading answer, and how you would guard against it.

A note on how these are read: Both questions have many defensible answers. We are looking for a candidate who states a concrete position, gives reasons that withstand questioning, and is honest about what they do not yet know.