

# UPES Dehradun partners with The University of Law to launch a Centre of Excellence for transforming education and research

UPES Dehradun and The University of Law (UK) have partnered to establish a Centre of Excellence, aiming to revolutionise global academic collaboration. This initiative focuses on research, faculty and student mobility, and professional development across disciplines. The collaboration extends beyond law to include computer science, engineering, and other fields.



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In a strategic move to redefine global academic collaboration and drive cross-border innovation in education, UPES Dehradun has partnered with the prestigious The University of Law (UK) and signed an

MoU to establish a Centre of Excellence. The initiative aims to foster transformational changes in research, faculty and student mobility, collaborative projects, and professional development across disciplines.

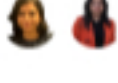
Speaking on the collaboration, **Prof. Peter Crisp, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of ULaw**, said, *"We are thrilled to partner with UPES to extend ULaw's 148-year legacy of legal excellence to India. This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to nurturing career-ready legal professionals equipped to succeed in an increasingly complex and tech-driven world. Together, we aim to foster innovation in legal education, particularly in emerging areas such as AI, and set new standards in training and research."*

Research will form a critical pillar of this collaboration, with a special emphasis on AI and Ethics. The CoE will also facilitate Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses, satellite centers, and a start-up incubator to nurture innovation and entrepreneurship among students and faculty. Additionally, the partnership includes faculty exchange, fostering an enriching exchange of knowledge and teaching practices.


## A multi-dimensional partnership

While The University of Law is widely known for its legacy in legal education — boasting a history that dates back to 1876 — it has evolved into a multidisciplinary institution. Alongside legal education, it offers a wide range of professional courses, including law, business, policing, criminology, psychology, computer science, and education.

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The partnership will facilitate student and faculty mobility in both directions — allowing UPES students to gain global exposure through study abroad semesters in the UK, and giving students from The University of Law the opportunity to experience India's dynamic academic and cultural landscape through UPES campuses.

**Dr Abhishek Sinha, Dean, UPES School of Law and Head, Department of Internationality, UPES**, said, *"Partnerships with renowned global universities like ULaw, align with our vision of creating the 'University of Tomorrow'. The establishment of the CoE will enhance academic excellence, addressing the critical need for professionals equipped to navigate emerging challenges like AI's ethical implications. Together, we're bridging the gap between education and real-world demands."*

"This is not limited to law – It's a comprehensive agreement extending to all our schools — including computer science, engineering, design, liberal studies, media, health sciences and business," added Dr Sinha.

## Advancing research and innovation

UPES has, in the recent years, emerged as a multi-disciplinary research-intensive university. The university's research output has seen exponential growth, from fewer than 100 Scopus-indexed papers in 2019 to nearly 2,000 by 2024, significantly boosting its international rankings.

"Our transformation from a teaching-led institution to a research-driven university is evident," stated Dr Sinha. "This partnership will further accelerate our ambition to be globally relevant in knowledge creation."

The proposed Centre of Excellence will also explore joint research initiatives, particularly in emerging areas such as law and technology, clean energy policy, innovation in education, and global business practices. Moreover, there is active conversation around leveraging UPES' startup ecosystem and incubation platforms to enable entrepreneurial collaboration between both institutions.

## From classroom to career: A shared vision

Both institutions share a common thread — preparing students for real-world challenges. UPES is integrating career-linked certifications, CPD (Continuing Professional Development) programmes, and industry-embedded learning modules to align academia with evolving industry needs.

The partnership will also introduce student mobility programs, featuring a rigorous curriculum designed to provide students with international academic exposure. A structured assessment and certification process will further enhance the academic value of the program, which will be co-delivered by expert faculty from both ULaw and UPES.

ULaw's practice-based approach, combined with UPES' innovative vision, will create a platform for students to develop market-ready skills. This strategic alliance between UPES and ULaw reinforces their commitment to address the evolving needs of education and research and prepare students for the challenges of the future.

Adding another layer to this collaboration, the two universities are planning satellite centres across campuses to support specialised training, short-term immersion programmes, and professional upskilling.

UPES School of Law recently launched an AR/VR Legal Simulation Lab, first of its kind in any law school across jurisdictions. This state-of-the-art facility will be dedicated to training students using legal simulations, enhancing their essential skills and also conducting moot court training. Additionally, the lab will be used for Faculty Development Programs (FDPs), focussed on soft skills and related areas.