1. In order to promote the study of public international law and private international law the Royal Netherlands Society of International Law (Koninklijke Nederlandse Vereniging voor Internationaal Recht) (the Society) has created the François Prize. The prize consists of a certificate and a monetary award in the amount of € 2,000.-. The Board may adjust this amount. In principle, the prize is awarded once every two years.

2. The prize is offered for a Master’s thesis or other comparable paper in the field of public international law or private international law. Ph.D. dissertations, books, articles published in scientific journals or publications that otherwise have been reviewed and revised externally do not qualify.

3. Students at a Netherlands institution for higher education or persons who have obtained a Master’s degree there may compete for his prize, provided that on 31 December of the year prior to that in which, in principle, the prize in question will be awarded, they have obtained their Master’s degree not more than two years ago.

4. Papers submitted may have been written in the Dutch, English, German or French language.

5. Papers must be submitted in triplicate and reach the Secretariat of the Society at Leiden before 1 January of the year in which, in principle, the prize will be awarded. Submissions must be anonymised. The Secretary of the Society will arrange for timely announcement of the prize.

6. An independent jury appointed by the Board will judge the papers submitted. In the event that the jury lacks the requisite expertise in any relevant field of study, it may request the advice of one or more experts.

7. Papers submitted are judged inter alia on originality, knowledge of the subject and use of the language.

8. Before 1 September of the year in which, in principle, the prize will be awarded the jury will decide on awarding the prize and inform the Board accordingly. In the event that two or more papers submitted are not significantly distinguishable, the jury may decide to divide the prize among several competitors or decide that, apart from the prize for the winner, it will award an honourable mention to one or more competitors. The jury also may decide not to award the prize if, in its opinion, none of the submissions deserves it.

9. The prize will be presented during the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

10. The Board will decide in any situation for which these Bye-laws do not provide.

* The text below is a translation of the original Dutch text of the Bye-Laws, the Reglement voor de Françoisprijs, as adopted by the General Meeting of the Royal Netherlands Society of International Law on 4 November 2016. In case of conflict the Dutch language version shall prevail.