

Declaration of the Arangio-Ruiz Foundation for International Law and the Establishment of an International Prize for Graduate Theses

The Arangio-Ruiz Foundation for International Law (TSE) expresses its deepest concern about the evolving international situation, which appears to be characterized by a systematic and serious distortion of the most fundamental rules designed to ensure, for the international community—and thus for the world's populations—the peaceful settlement of disputes and the non-use of unilateral instruments to assert any legitimate needs of States. Clearly, the situation concerning the attack on Venezuela certainly does not reflect any such need.

- Save for cases of self-defense, the use of force is always unlawful, except where it is expressly authorized by the United Nations Security Council;
- The principle of self-defense serves to permit the use of armed force by a subject unlawfully subjected to a military attack, and only within the strict limits of what is necessary and proportionate to repel the aggressor and expel it from its own territory;
- There is no impediment to discussing possible issues of territorial sovereignty, even if altered by de facto situations, whether lawful or unlawful, pending the outcome of any negotiations or judicial proceedings.
- Each subject is free to determine its international alliances, in accordance with the principle of the obligation of loyal and equal cooperation;
- Only the people, taken as a whole, are entitled to choose their own political, social, and economic system, free from being subjected to the authority of other subjects;
- Human rights, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of 1948 and in the relevant international instruments, must be guaranteed at all times and in all places, and under any internal or international political circumstances.
- Internationally wrongful acts of States shall be established through impartial and independent third-party mechanisms, notably the International Court of Justice, to which all States are parties, whereas individual criminal responsibility is addressed in particular by the International Criminal Court and, where applicable, by other tribunals, in accordance with their respective constituent instruments and the rules governing their jurisdiction;
- Furthermore, the free and independent study and discussion of international legal and political matters shall be ensured.

The Arangio-Ruiz Foundation for International Law, reaffirming these indispensable requirements for civil coexistence among peoples and subjects of international law, calls upon other associations of jurists to reaffirm their full commitment to the aforementioned principles, and to associate themselves with the firm statement issued by the editorial leadership of the American Journal of International Law, which declares: «Recent actions by the U.S. government and broader trends in the United States demonstrate a lack of commitment to law and institutions in ways that undermine our work. In particular, the government's threats to universities and research journals undercut the study and teaching of international law, its threats to law firms and non-profit organizations impinge on the practice of international law, and its targeting of people with varying immigration statuses on the basis of their lawful exercise of free speech silences important voices in our community».

The Arangio-Ruiz Foundation takes this opportunity, at a particularly difficult and contentious moment in international life, to launch an international prize for a master's degree thesis in international law and related disciplines, the call for applications for which is annexed hereto.

Januray 8, 2026

The Scientific Committee

The Governing board

**COMPETITION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE AWARD OF TWO PRIZES
FOR DEGREE THESES IN INTERNATIONAL LAW IN MEMORY OF GAETANO
ARANGIO-RUIZ**

2026 Edition

Art. 1. Subject and purpose.

The Arangio-Ruiz TSE Foundation, with the aim of enhancing and promoting the study of international law and related disciplines, announces two Master's Degree awards or their equivalents in other countries, dedicated to the memory of Gaetano Arangio-Ruiz, each in the amount of €2,000.00, before taxes and social security contributions.

Art. 2. Recipients.

The award is reserved for Master's degree holders in Law, Political Science and Economics or their equivalents who have obtained their degree by 31 October 2026 and no earlier than 1 January 2025, having discussed a thesis related in scientific disciplines related to international law, European Union law, and human rights, and who are under 30 years of age at the deadline for submitting their application to participate in this call for proposals.

Art. 3. Admission requirements.

Italian and foreign graduates with theses in Italian, French, English, German or Spanish are eligible to participate in the competition.

Theses in languages other than those indicated above will only be accepted if accompanied by an Italian translation.

Art. 4. Submission of applications. Terms and conditions.

Applications for this call for applications must be sent by email, in pdf format, to premi@fondazionearangioruiz.it by 30 November 2026 at the latest.

Under penalty of nullity, the following must be attached to the application, also in PDF format:

- a) a copy of a valid identity document;
- b) a degree certificate completion, with the corresponding grade;
- c) a copy of the degree thesis;
- d) a letter of recommendation from the thesis supervisor;
- e) authorisation to process data in the manner and for the purposes set out in Article 6 of the call for applications.

Art. 5. Awarding of the prize.

The evaluation of the degree theses is delegated to a five-member Awarding Committee, which shall be appointed by the Arangio-Ruiz Foundation from among recognized experts in the field, after the deadline for the submission of applications. The names of the members of the Commission shall be published on the Foundation's website. The members of the Board of Directors and the members of the Foundation's Scientific Committee shall be ineligible to serve on the Awarding Committee.

The Committee will award the prizes at its sole discretion. Awards will be made within three months of its appointment or a different time frame as agreed between the Foundation's Board of Directors and the Committee. Evaluation factors will include the originality, the methodological rigor, and the innovative nature of the work.

The award-winning theses will be published on the Foundation's website. The Foundation shall provide the secretarial services for the Committee.

Art. 6. Data processing.

The provision and collection of data is mandatory for the purposes of participating in this call for applications and, in cases involving sensitive data, will be carried out in accordance with Law 68/1999 and Law 104/1992. Personal data provided by candidates will be processed in accordance with Legislative Decree No. 196/2000 and EU Regulation No. 679 of 27 April 2016 (General Data Protection Regulation or GDPR). The personal data of the candidates will be processed, in paper or electronic form, for the sole purpose of the scholarship competition process.

Art. 7. Publication.

This announcement is published on the Arangio-Ruiz Foundation's website. Please, direct all inquiries to premi@fondazionearangioruiz.it.

Soave, 8 January 2026