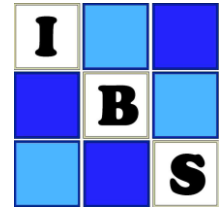




## Société Adolphe Quetelet

Belgian region of the International Biometric  
Society



### **Université catholique de Louvain Internal Rules for awarding the Quetelet Prize.**

Since 2008, the Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL) is an Institutional Member of the Adolphe Quetelet Society and is therefore entitled to offer the Quetelet prize to one of its students. The prize is intended for students finishing a degree in which they produced statistical work with biometric applications to the best standards desirable for someone at their level of formation and experience. In the spirit of the Quetelet Society, “biometry” should be considered here in the broadest sense of the word, such as described by Fisher: “the active pursuit of biological knowledge by quantitative methods”<sup>1</sup>. This document describes the internal UCL rules for awarding this prize.

The Quetelet Society required that the following points are considered when judging which student merits the award:

- that a clear and relevant question has been posed
- that it has been answered in a well structured way
- that answers and exposition were mathematically correct
- that the solution was to the point and perhaps even original
- that the conduct was ethical
- that conclusions were justified and well formulated
- that necessary assumptions were explicitly stated
- that things left to be done were pointed out

In addition, the UCL will restrict the application for this prize to

- a Master thesis defended during the academic year and addressing statistical work directly or indirectly linked to biometry, as defined by the International Biometric Society:

“The terms "Biometrics" and "Biometry" have been used since early in the 20th century to refer to the field of development of statistical and mathematical methods applicable to data analysis problems in the biological sciences. Statistical methods for the analysis of data from agricultural field experiments to compare the yields of different varieties of wheat, for the analysis of data from human clinical trials evaluating the relative effectiveness of competing therapies for disease, or for the analysis of data from environmental studies on the effects of air or water pollution on the appearance of human disease in a region or country are all examples of problems that would fall under the umbrella of "Biometrics" as the term has been historically used. (...) Recently, the term "Biometrics" has also been used to refer to the emerging field of technology devoted to identification of individuals using biological traits, such as those based on retinal or iris scanning, fingerprints, or face recognition.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> R.A. Fisher, *Biometrics* (1948) 4(3): 217-9. <http://www.tibs.org/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=632>

<sup>2</sup> The International Biometric Society website - <http://www.tibs.org/interior.aspx?id=290>

The prize will be open to all student of UCL. Each student will be responsible to apply in written for this prize to the UCL Quetelet Prize Committee. The student will add to his application a two-page summary of his work. This summary will present the main results of the thesis but will also demonstrate that the thesis fulfils the eligibility criteria for this prize. In case the statistical work presented in the thesis is not directly linked to biometry, this summary will give the opportunity to the student to demonstrate how his/her work is indirectly linked to biometry, for example by describing an application of her/her work in biometry. Deadline for application is the official date of the beginning of the following academic year, unless specified otherwise.

The UCL Quetelet Prize Committee will be composed of at least 4 academics, including at least one member of the Institut de Statistique and one member of the Ecole de Santé Publique or the Ecole des sciences Biomédicales. These academics will be designated by the Conseil de l'Institut de Statistique. One of the committee members will act as contact person with the Quetelet Society. His/her name will be provided to the Society secretary. According to the Quetelet Society functioning, this person will be provided with a certificate - in which he/she can fill out the name of the student rewarded. Once the name is known, the contact person will also be responsible to send the Society treasurer an invoice requesting payment of 250€ onto the account of the student. This money transfer will then be activated. The Society further requests that the UCL provide them with a brief report of the choice and its basis within one month of the proclamation at which the prize is awarded.

Besides the prize of 250€ and the certificate of the Quetelet Society, the student will be offered to present his/her work at the Annual Meeting of the SBS-BVS. His/her registration fee (including accommodation) will be taken in charge by the Quetelet Society. The prize will be hand over by the Committee to the awarded student during the Annual Meeting of the SBS-BVS. According to the spirit of the Society, the Committee will use this opportunity to highlight the role of biometry in a statistically literate Society, perhaps referring to the example of Quetelet a famous Belgian Scientist. The students name will be kept in the books of the Society and an abstract of the thesis will be published on the website of the Institut de Statistique and in the International Biometric Bulletin.