



INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

in arabic calligraphy

GRAND MOSQUE OF PARIS

2026 • 1st Edition

Competition Guide



Preamble

On the occasion of its **centenary (1926-2026)**, the **Grande Mosquée de Paris** is establishing an **international arabic calligraphy competition** to celebrate a century of spiritual, cultural, and artistic influence.

Since its founding, the Grande Mosquée de Paris has been dedicated to **promoting Islamic arts**, particularly the noble art of **Arabic calligraphy**, a major expression of the aesthetic and intellectual tradition of Muslim civilization.

In this perspective, and **under the high patronage of the Rector, Chems-eddine Hafiz**, the competition entitled "Nûn" will be awarded to laureates to encourage, valorize, and transmit the excellence of Islamic arts.

This prize aims to support artists, preserve classical calligraphic traditions, and foster cultural dialogue through the beauty and rigor of this secular art.

The Jury

The **members of the Jury for the 2026 edition** are:

- Dr. **Amor Jamni**, President of the Jury (Calligrapher);
- Mr. **Munib Obradovic** (Professional Calligrapher);
- Mr. **Abdelkader Boumala** (Professional Calligrapher);
- Mr. **Rany Rouabah** (Calligrapher, student of Ghani Alani and Ali Towhidi Tabari);
- Mr. **Hamda Yacoub** (Calligrapher, student of Ghani Alani);
- Mr. **Nizam Baboorally** (Professional Calligrapher).

Competition Secretariat

The **Competition Secretariat**, based at the Grand Mosque of Paris, coordinates the event. The Secretariat is not required to respond to observations, objections, or requests for information regarding the procedure or jury decisions, either before or after the announcement of results.

Competition Coordinator: Ms. Nacerine Louanoughi.

Terms and Rules of Candidacy

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. **Any individual of any nationality**, who is of **legal age** under French law (**18 years old**) and capable of producing a work of classical Arab-Islamic calligraphy, may participate **individually**, provided they **respect the specific rules of this art** and the **conditions of these regulations**.
2. Each participant may compete in a **maximum of one style**. Any entry exceeding this limit will be canceled.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS

1. **Ink:** The use of **classical black ink** is **mandatory**.
2. **Paper:** Works must be produced on **light-colored paper**.
3. **Accepted Formats:**
 - **29.7 cm × 42 cm:** Thuluth, Naskh, Ta'liq, Diwani, and Kufi;
 - **20 × 30 cm:** Maghribi.Any work not respecting these dimensions will be rejected.

STYLES

The competition covers the styles detailed below. **Strict adherence to the text** and the **rules of each style** is mandatory:

1. Tuluth

Qalam: 2–5 mm maximum.

Layout: Parallel horizontal lines, no composition.

Format: 29.7 × 42 cm.

Text:

اللَّهُ نُورُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ۚ مِثْلُ نُورِهِ كَمِشْكَاةٍ فِيهَا مِصْبَاحٌ ۚ الْمِصْبَاحُ فِي زُجَاجَةٍ ۚ الزُّجَاجَةُ كَأَنَّهَا كَوْكَبٌ دُرِّيٌّ يُوقَدُ مِنْ شَجَرَةٍ مُبَارَكَةٍ زَيْتُونَةٍ لَا شَرْقِيَّةٍ وَلَا غَرْبِيَّةٍ يَكَادُ زَيْتُهَا يُضِيءُ وَلَوْ لَمْ تَمْسَسْهُ نَارٌ ۚ نُورٌ عَلَى نُورٍ ۗ يَهْدِي اللَّهُ لِنُورِهِ مَن يَشَاءُ ۗ وَيَضْرِبُ اللَّهُ الْأَمْثَالَ لِلنَّاسِ ۗ وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ.

2. Naskh

Qalam: 2–5 mm maximum.

Layout: Parallel horizontal lines, no composition.

Format: 29.7 × 42 cm.

Text:

اللَّهُ نُورُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ۚ مَثَلُ نُورِهِ كَمِشْكَاةٍ فِيهَا مِصْبَاحٌ ۚ الْمِصْبَاحُ فِي زُجَاجَةٍ ۚ الزُّجَاجَةُ كَأَنَّهَا كَوْكَبٌ دُرِّيٌّ يُوقَدُ مِنْ شَجَرَةٍ مُبَارَكَةٍ زَيْتُونَةٍ لَا شَرْقِيَّةٍ وَلَا غَرْبِيَّةٍ يَكَادُ زَيْتُهَا يُضِيءُ وَلَوْ لَمْ تَمْسَسْهُ نَارٌ ۚ نُورٌ عَلَى نُورٍ ۗ يَهْدِي اللَّهُ لِنُورِهِ مَنْ يَشَاءُ ۚ وَيَضْرِبُ اللَّهُ الْأَمْثَالَ لِلنَّاسِ ۗ وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ.

3. Ta'liq (Nasta'liq)

Qalam: 2–5 mm.

Style: Chalipa.

Format: 29.7 × 42 cm.

Text:

بلغ العلى بكماله
كشف الدجى بجماله
حسنت جميع خصاله
صلوا عليه وآله

4. Diwani

Qalam: 2–5 mm maximum.

Layout: Parallel horizontal lines.

Format: 29.7 × 42 cm.

Text:

فِي بُيُوتِ أَذْنِ اللَّهِ أَنْ تُرْفَعَ وَيُذْكَرَ فِيهَا اسْمُهُ يُسَبِّحُ لَهُ فِيهَا بِالْغُدُوِّ وَالْآصَالِ ۗ رِجَالٌ لَا تُلْهِيهِمْ تِجَارَةٌ وَلَا بَيْعٌ عَنْ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَإِقَامِ الصَّلَاةِ وَإِيتَاءِ الزَّكَاةِ ۗ يَخَافُونَ يَوْمًا تَتَقَلَّبُ فِيهِ الْقُلُوبُ وَالْأَبْصَارُ

5. Kufi

Qalam: 2–5 mm maximum.

Format: 29.7 × 42 cm.

Text:

فِي بُيُوتِ أَذْنِ اللَّهِ أَنْ تُرْفَعَ وَيُذْكَرَ فِيهَا اسْمُهُ يُسَبِّحُ لَهُ فِيهَا بِالْغُدُوِّ وَالْآصَالِ ۗ رِجَالٌ لَا تُلْهِيهِمْ تِجَارَةٌ وَلَا بَيْعٌ عَنْ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَإِقَامِ الصَّلَاةِ وَإِيتَاءِ الزَّكَاةِ ۗ يَخَافُونَ يَوْمًا تَتَقَلَّبُ فِيهِ الْقُلُوبُ وَالْأَبْصَارُ

6. Maghribi

Qalam: 1–3 mm maximum.

Format: 21 cm × 29.7 cm.

Text:

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ ۚ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ ۚ لَهٗ مَا فِي السَّمٰوٰتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ ۗ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ ۗ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ ۗ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ ۗ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمٰوٰتِ وَالْأَرْضَ ۗ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا ۗ وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ

Evaluation Criteria

Works will be **evaluated according to the classical rules** of calligraphy. Submissions will be **disqualified**, regardless of artistic quality, if they contain:

- Errors that alter the meaning of the text;
- Spelling mistakes;
- Non-compliance with the regulations.

It is strongly recommended to **carefully check** the spelling and vocalization of the verses.

Awards

The International Arabic Calligraphy Competition of the Grande Mosquée de Paris – 2026 – 1st Edition features a total prize fund of **€57,000**.

Prize Distribution:

Style	1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
Thuluth	€5,000	€3,000	€1,500
Naskh	€5,000	€3,000	€1,500
Maghribi	€5,000	€3,000	€1,500
Ta'liq	€5,000	€3,000	€1,500
Diwani	€5,000	€3,000	€1,500
Kufi	€5,000	€3,000	€1,500

The Jury may choose not to award a prize or to award multiple prizes for the same rank.

Decisions of the Jury are **final**.

Prizes will be paid in **Euros** via **bank transfer**.

Copyright

1. Participation implies **acceptance of the regulations**.
2. **Award-winning or mentioned works become the property** of the Grand Mosque of Paris. **Patrimonial rights** (reproduction, publication, exhibition) are assigned to the institution.
3. Non-winning works may be collected in person within one year of the results announcement. After this period, they also become the property of the Grand Mosque of Paris.

Competition Calendar

1. **Competition Announcement:** April 23, 2026
2. **Registration Deadline:** May 31, 2026
3. **Submission Deadline (Works):** July 30, 2026
4. **Announcement of Results:** September 19, 2026

Application Procedures

Step 1: Submission of Registration Form

Candidates must **fill out and sign the application form:**

- Download from:
<https://www.grandemosqueedeparis.fr/post/concours-calligraphie-2026>
- Send by May 31, 2026, via email to:
concours-calligraphie@grandemosqueedeparis.fr

Applications without a signed form will be rejected.

Step 2: Sending the Works

1. The work must contain **no name, signature, or identification mark.**
2. The work must be sent **without ornamentation or gilding.**
3. The work must be **carefully packaged** to arrive flat, without folds or damage.
4. The original work must be sent **only by mail** (registered mail recommended) or **delivered in person** to the Secretariat by **July 30, 2026**, at the following address:

Grande Mosquée de Paris
Concours international de calligraphie arabe
2 bis place du Puits de l'Ermitte, 75005 Paris, France

5. All shipments must include the **Submission Slip** (provided below) inserted **inside the envelope.**

Submission Slip for the Work

General Information

Date of shipment	
Country of origin	
Sender's Name	
Full Address	
Country	
Phone / Email	

Recipient

Name	Grande Mosquée de Paris
Department	Concours international de calligraphie arabe
Address	2 bis Place du Puits de l'Ermite
Zip Code / City	75005 Paris
Country	France

Shipment Details

Mail Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Parcel
Content	Arabic Calligraphy Work

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
مَسْجِدُ الْجَامِعِ الْكَبِيرِ



GRANDE
MOSQUÉE
DE PARIS

100 ANS DE LUMIÈRE
DE LA GRANDE MOSQUÉE DE PARIS

IN CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENARY
OF THE GRAND MOSQUE OF PARIS
1926-2026

SEPT. 2026

1ST ED.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

in arabic calligraphy

Thuluth | Naskh | Nasta'liq | Diwani | Kufi | Maghribî

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

05 31 2026



INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION
in arabic calligraphy
GRAND MOSQUE OF PARIS

grandmosqueedeparis.fr

