

# FUND PROFILE

## INSIGHT HIGH GRADE ABS

### OPPORTUNITY

- The Insight High Grade ABS Fund is an actively managed fixed income fund investing in high-quality, asset-backed securities (ABS).
- The Fund is highly diversified with the majority of securities having a credit rating of AAA and AA with a core exposure to European prime residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS).
- The Fund is managed with a focus on liquidity management and therefore has a high allocation to short-maturity, floating rate note instruments.
- While the Fund could be used standalone for those seeking potential attractive positive returns, it can also lend itself to being used to generate a return potentially above the funding cost of a swap or gilt-based hedging strategy within a liability-driven investment (LDI) solution.

### MORE DETAIL

The investment team applies a defensive approach to asset selection with the intention of minimising credit risk. As a result, the majority of the Fund's investments are high quality, conservatively structured asset-backed securities.

The Fund currently does not invest in derivatives to obtain market exposure. Typically, the only derivatives used are forward foreign exchange contracts to hedge unwanted currency exposure back to the base currency of sterling. There is currently no leverage within the Fund.

### INVESTMENT PROCESS

There are four stages to the Fund's investment process:

1. **Asset screening:** Our approach to sector strategy is to identify preferred sectors given where we are in the economic cycle whilst maintaining sufficient diversification. With regard to our issuer universe, we cover approximately 150 issuers with the bulk of our active trading occurring in some 60-70 issuers. Our defensive philosophy and the scope of the opportunity set means we can decline around 80% of the available investments and still aim to meet the Fund's objective.
2. **Qualitative analysis:** The starting point for our qualitative analysis is top down in nature and focused on the current economic environment and our outlook. The different stages of the economic cycle will directly impact key variables such as unemployment, property prices and interest rates. These key variables input into our models, giving us a good understanding of how different environments may impact our holdings. Another critical aspect of our top-down analysis is considering the quality of the originating institution as defined by their financial strength and loan underwriting standards. We also consider how they service and deal with both performing and non-performing borrowers.  
  
Our qualitative analysis is also bottom-up in approach. We undertake similar steps as the original underwriter in looking at the characteristics of a bond's collateral. For example, on a residential mortgage-backed security we look at variables such as the loan-to-value (LTV) ratios of the mortgages in the pool, the borrowers' debt to income ratio and the geographic spread of borrowers. We will then consider the historical performance of the collateral within the bond since issue, examining arrears, defaults, losses etc.  
  
Our access to proprietary macroeconomic forecasting tools and our deep understanding of mortgage originating practices allows us to select what we believe to be the highest-quality investments.
3. **Quantitative analysis:** A combination of our proprietary analytics and third-party systems allow us to price investments accurately and conservatively. We use our models to predict how high the losses can be on a collateral pool, based on individual loan level analysis, and stress test each deal to see what it can withstand before losses occur.
4. **Proactive monitoring:** Our surveillance systems can allow us to spot potential problems quickly, allowing us to exit positions in a timely fashion.

## FUND SNAPSHOT

<b>Objective</b>	To produce an interest rate-based return by investing in a portfolio of asset-backed securities and corporate floating rate notes.
<b>Benchmark</b>	1-month GBP SONIA
<b>Investment universe</b>	High-quality debt securities consisting primarily of asset backed securities and floating rate notes. The investment universe can also include fixed rate bonds, credit default swaps (CDS), currency forwards, currency swaps, interest rate swaps, other cash and liquid assets and private placement funding trades. The investments of the Fund will be issued by world-wide issuers and may be denominated in any currency, although they will be predominantly in sterling, euro and US dollars. They may or may not be listed on recognised exchanges and markets.
<b>Launch date</b>	7 December 2007 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Legal structure</b>	UCITS
<b>Base currency</b>	Sterling
<b>Minimum investment</b>	£1 million
<b>Domicile</b>	Ireland
<b>Listing</b>	Irish Stock Exchange
<b>Pricing</b>	Single swinging price
<b>Liquidity/dealing</b>	Daily, dealing deadline midday (Ireland time) on the business day before the relevant dealing day
<b>Reporting</b>	Semi-annual, annual reports and accounts and monthly factsheets
<b>Custodian</b>	Northern Trust Fiduciary Services (Ireland) Limited
<b>Administrator</b>	Northern Trust International Fund Administration Services (Ireland) Limited

## ABOUT INSIGHT INVESTMENT

Insight Investment is a leading asset manager focused on designing investment solutions to meet our clients' needs. Launched in 2002, Insight is responsible for assets under management of £742bn<sup>2</sup> across absolute return, fixed income, liability-driven investment, cash management, multi-asset, specialist equity strategies and currency risk management. We manage money for pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, insurance groups, local government, charities, private investors and other financial institutions.

## OUR TEAM

The Fund is managed by Shaheer Guirguis, Head of Secured Finance and Jeremy Deacon and Tristan Teoh, Secured Finance Portfolio Managers. This team is part of Insight's Fixed Income Group, led by Adrian Grey, Global Chief Investment Officer. The group comprises 114 fixed income investment professionals, with an average of 18 years industry experience, managing £153.8bn of fixed income assets<sup>2</sup>.



**Shaheer Guirguis**  
Head of Secured Finance

Shaheer joined Insight in September 2007 as a structured credit portfolio manager. Shaheer holds a BSc honours degree in Economics from the University of Surrey, an MSc in Finance from the University of Durham as well as being a CFA charterholder.



**Jeremy Deacon**  
Portfolio Manager,  
Secured Finance

Jeremy joined Insight in October 2010 as a structured credit analyst. Previously, Jeremy worked at CQS where he was responsible for the monitoring of their ABS fund and also analysed European RMBS and CMBS opportunities.



**Tristan Teoh**  
Portfolio Manager,  
Secured Finance

Tristan joined Insight in May 2012 as an ABS Credit Analyst. Previously, Tristan worked at Morgan Stanley. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and Finance and a Bachelor of Business Systems from Monash University, Australia.

<sup>1</sup> LIBOR Plus Fund (QIF) launched on 7 December 2007. All assets from this Fund transferred to the Insight High Grade ABS Fund (UCITS) on 30 June 2011.

<sup>2</sup> As at 30 June 2021. AUM are represented by the value of cash securities and other economic exposure managed for clients. Reflects the AUM of Insight, the corporate brand for certain companies operated by Insight Investment Management Limited (IIML). Insight includes, among others, Insight Investment Management (Global) Limited (IIMG), Insight Investment International Limited (IIL), Insight Investment Management (Europe) Limited (IIMEL) and Insight North America LLC (INA), each of which provides asset management services.

## INSIGHT'S SECURED FINANCE OFFERING<sup>3</sup>

We provide a comparison of Insight's strategies, all of which are EU Risk Retention compliant, in the table below:

	Liquid ABS	High Grade ABS <sup>4</sup>	Global ABS	Secured Finance (soft closed) <sup>5</sup>	Secured Finance II
Benchmark	1-month SONIA <sup>6</sup>	1-month SONIA <sup>6</sup>	1-month SONIA <sup>6</sup>	SONIA	SONIA
Structured credit	100%	95%	95%	60%	60%
Secured loans	0%	5%	5%	40%	40%
Geographic focus	Europe	Europe	Global	Global	Global
Weighted average maturity	1.7 years	2.5 years	3.3 years	2.2 years	2.2 years
Spread over benchmark	+47bp	+104bp	+159bp	+296bp	+231bp
Current average rating	AAA	AAA/AA	AA-	A	A

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### RISK DISCLOSURES

Past performance is not indicative of future results. Investment in any strategy involves a risk of loss which may partly be due to exchange rate fluctuations.

Portfolio holdings are subject to change, for information only and are not investment recommendations.

### ASSOCIATED INVESTMENT RISKS

- Where the portfolio holds over 35% of its net asset value in securities of one governmental issuer, the value of the portfolio may be profoundly affected if one or more of these issuers fails to meet its obligations or suffers a ratings downgrade.
- A credit default swap (CDS) provides a measure of protection against defaults of debt issuers but there is no assurance their use will be effective or will have the desired result.
- The issuer of a debt security may not pay income or repay capital to the bondholder when due.
- Derivatives may be used to generate returns as well as to reduce costs and/or the overall risk of the portfolio. Using derivatives can involve a higher level of risk. A small movement in the price of an underlying investment may result in a disproportionately large movement in the price of the derivative investment.
- Investments in emerging markets can be less liquid and riskier than more developed markets and difficulties in accounting, dealing, settlement and custody may arise.
- Investments in bonds are affected by interest rates and inflation trends which may affect the value of the portfolio.
- Where high yield instruments are held, their low credit rating indicates a greater risk of default, which would affect the value of the portfolio.
- The investment manager may invest in instruments which can be difficult to sell when markets are stressed.
- Where leverage is used as part of the management of the portfolio through the use of swaps and other derivative instruments, this can increase the overall volatility. While leverage presents opportunities for increasing total returns, it has the effect of potentially increasing losses as well. Any event that adversely affects the value of an investment would be magnified to the extent that leverage is employed by the portfolio. Any losses would therefore be greater than if leverage were not employed.
- While efforts will be made to eliminate potential inequalities between shareholders in a pooled fund through the performance fee calculation methodology, there may be occasions where a shareholder may pay a performance fee for which they have not received a commensurate benefit.

<sup>3</sup> Source: Insight as at 30 June 2021.

<sup>4</sup> Previously named LIBOR Plus. It was renamed High Grade ABS on 2 January 2020.

<sup>5</sup> Investments into this strategy are currently restricted. Please contact your relationship manager for up-to-date details. The current holdings of existing investors are not affected. Investors are able to sell all or part of an existing holding as normal.

<sup>6</sup> From 2 January 2020, previously 3-month GBP LIBOR.



FIND OUT MORE

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