

# GuardCap Global Equity Fund

Class: S (Acc) EUR



## Investment Objective

The investment objective of the Fund is to seek long-term growth of capital with lower than market volatility by investing primarily in equity and similar securities issued by high quality companies listed on recognised markets in countries, which are members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ("OECD").

## Investment Approach

Philosophy: growth drives returns; quality protects against downside; valuation matters.

- Concentrated, long-only strategy with 20-25 high quality, sustainably growing companies
- Focused "total immersion", bottom-up analysis of selected high-confidence stocks
- Benchmark agnostic, unconstrained portfolio construction; high active share
- Genuine long-term investing with low portfolio turnover
- Large / Mid-cap focus

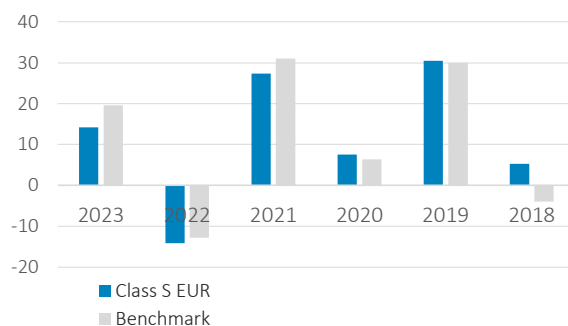
## Investment Team

	Joined GuardCap	Years of experience
Michael Boyd	2014	35
Giles Warren	2014	26
Bojana Bidovec	2016	17
Orlaith O'Connor	2015	13

## Fund Performance - annualised, net of fees (%)

	1 M	3 M	YTD	1 YR	Annualised			
					3 YR	5 YR	7 YR	Inception
Class S EUR	1.09	4.93	4.93	9.35	7.35	9.92	10.88	11.78
Benchmark	3.39	11.33	11.33	25.82	11.70	12.94	10.94	11.40
Relative return	-2.30	-6.40	-6.40	-16.47	-4.35	-3.02	-0.06	0.38

## Fund Calendar Year Performance - net of fees (%)



	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Class S EUR	14.20	-14.13	27.29	7.54	30.51	5.23
Benchmark	19.60	-12.78	31.07	6.33	30.02	-3.97
Relative return	-5.40	-1.35	-3.78	1.21	0.49	9.20

Past performance results are no indication of future results

## Fund Facts

Legal Status	UCITS
Fund Launch date	10 December 2014
Class Inception	31 January 2017
Benchmark	MSCI World Index (Net) EUR
Fund Size	USD 3.69 billion
Strategy AUM <sup>1</sup>	USD 12.63 billion
Strategy AUA <sup>1</sup>	USD 1.40 billion
ISIN	IE00BYQ67K80
Bloomberg	GCGLESE
WKN	A2DHB6

<sup>1</sup>AUM = Assets under management, AUA = Assets under advice; based on estimates and is not official

## Charges & Subscriptions

Annual management fee	1.50%
Ongoing charges <sup>2</sup>	1.58%
Minimum investment	EUR 5,000

<sup>2</sup>As at 31 December 2023; including Annual management fee

## Portfolio Characteristics

Number of stocks	24
Active share	90.3%
Net exposure	99.0%

## Risk

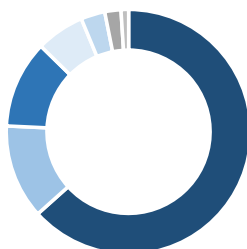
	Fund	Index
Tracking error	5.70	
Standard deviation	14.15	15.36
Information ratio	0.38	
Sharpe ratio <sup>3</sup>	0.73	0.53
Upside market capture	93.97	100.00
Downside market capture	84.08	100.00
Batting average	0.57	

USD I Share Class, since inception (10 December 2014).

<sup>3</sup>Sharpe ratio calculated using Bloomberg US Generic Govt. 3 Month Yield

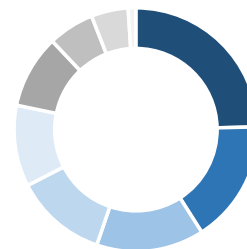
### Geographic Allocation (%)

United States	63.29
Denmark	12.49
France	11.55
United Kingdom	6.38
Switzerland	3.17
Japan	2.12
Cash	1.00



### Sector Allocation (%)

Health Care	24.62
Financials	16.29
Consumer Staples	14.31
Consumer Discretionary	12.21
Information Technology	10.78
Industrials	9.74
Communication Services	6.15
Materials	4.90
Cash	1.00



### Top 5 Holdings

	% of assets
EssilorLuxottica	7.91
CME Group	6.89
Alphabet	6.15
Novo Nordisk	5.33
Mastercard	5.16

### Monthly Contributors / Detractors

	Contribution to return
+ Alphabet	0.53
+ EssilorLuxottica	0.52
+ Novo Nordisk	0.42
- Nike	-0.36
- Accenture	-0.35
- Reckitt Benckiser	-0.32

### YTD Contributors / Detractors

	Contribution to return
+ Novo Nordisk	1.71
+ EssilorLuxottica	1.09
+ Mastercard	0.74
- MarketAxess	-1.09
- Reckitt Benckiser	-0.63
- Nike	-0.47

### Manager Commentary

The top contributors to performance year to date were **Novo Nordisk**, **EssilorLuxottica** and **Mastercard**.

**Novo Nordisk** continues to benefit from a strong uptake of its diabetes and obesity medicines. 2024 sales growth guidance of 18-26% follows 36% growth in 2023. Its cardiovascular dataset is a strong point of differentiation. Amycretin, its new weight loss drug, has shown promising early results and is potentially market leading at improving weight loss. **EssilorLuxottica** reported consensus beating sales growth with a sequential acceleration in Q4. Management claim to have the richest pipeline ever, with a 10-20 year time horizon, including products for myopia management, eyeglasses powered by technology and audio. **Mastercard** reported strong quarterly results driven by growth in cross border and healthy consumer spending. Payment network revenues (60% of sales) grew 7% at constant exchange rates, value added services (40%) increased 17%. The company is guiding to 12-13% organic revenue growth at constant exchange for 2024.

The top detractors year to date were **MarketAxess**, **Reckitt Benckiser** and **Nike**.

**MarketAxess** reported market share losses in Q1. The decrease in high yield market share was driven by lower levels of credit spread volatility, a greater focus on new issuance, and a higher mix of lower-rated bonds. Whilst new issuance has a negative impact for market share, it is a longer term positive for market volumes. The company will launch a raft of initiatives in 2024 to grow corporate bond market share. **Reckitt Benckiser** reported disappointing H2 23 results. News of an understatement of trade spend in the Middle East hit sentiment; management believe the incident is an isolated event. In March a jury awarded \$60 million in damages to a mother who said her baby died after consuming the company's pre-term Enfamil baby formula. There are several 100 similar claims. Reckitt are confident in a successful appeal based on the science. The product has not been withdrawn. At its most recent results presentation, **Nike** gave guidance for its next fiscal year which disappointed the market. Although the company expects growth, it is not expected until the second half of the year. Inventory levels have improved significantly, and the product portfolio will go through a transition in the next couple of quarters. Management believes that the Paris Olympics will serve as a catalyst for Nike brands.

Returns are expressed in U.S. dollars and attribution commentary refers to the USD share class

### Share Class Ratings

Morningstar Analyst Rating™  
Overall Morningstar Rating™



## ESG Reporting

### Fund ESG Ratings

Morningstar Sustainability Rating™

Morningstar Low Carbon Designation™

MSCI ESG Rating™



### Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR)

Classification: Article 8

### ESG Integration

All investee companies must meet the team's ten Confidence Criteria, including strong "Foundations for Sustainable Growth" (FSG), which ensures that a company's ESG practices align with its potential for long-term sustainable growth. The Fund's concentrated approach (20-25 stocks) enables a thorough understanding of the sustainability risks and opportunities relevant to each company and an analysis of a company's ESG issues forms a key part of every investment decision.

### Active Ownership

Active ownership is deeply embedded in our investment philosophy and we endeavour to vote on all resolutions related to our companies. If a company is engaged in a practice that concerns us, we will engage with the company on the issue, seek to learn more about it and encourage positive change.

### Exclusion Policy

The Fund excludes direct investment in corporate issuers that are involved in the manufacture or production<sup>1</sup> of:



Controversial weapons<sup>2</sup>



Extraction of fossil fuels and/or generation of power from them



Firearms or small arms ammunition

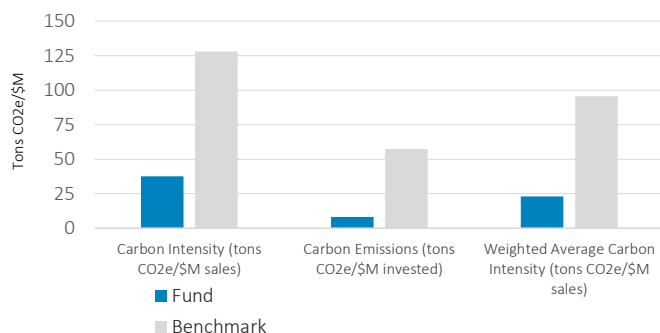


Tobacco products

<sup>1</sup>Subject to a specific revenue threshold of 5%, based on a company's annual report

<sup>2</sup>Includes anti-personnel landmines, cluster munitions, biological weapons and chemical weapons

### Carbon Footprint Metrics (Scope 1 and 2)



	Fund	Benchmark
Carbon Intensity (tons CO2e/\$M sales)	37.6	128.0
Carbon Emissions (tons CO2e/\$M invested)	8.1	57.4
Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (tons CO2e/\$M sales)	23.0	95.5

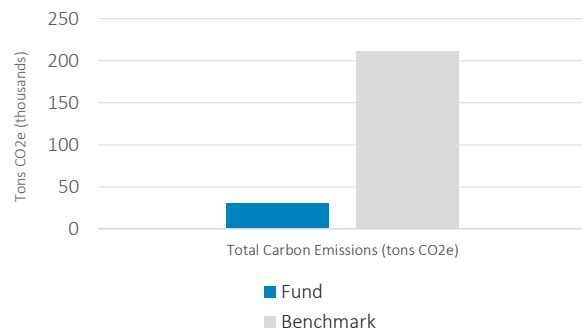
Source: MSCI as at 31 March 2024. Includes Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions.

Carbon Intensity (tons CO2e/\$M sales) measures the carbon efficiency of a portfolio, defined as the ratio of carbon emissions for which an investor is responsible to the sales for which an investor has a claim by their equity ownership. Emissions and sales are apportioned based on equity ownership (% market capitalisation).

Carbon Emissions (tons CO2e/\$M invested) measures the carbon emissions, for which an investor is responsible, per USD million invested, by their equity ownership. Emissions are apportioned based on equity ownership (% market capitalisation).

Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (WACI) (tons CO2e/\$M sales) measures a portfolio's exposure to carbon-intensive companies, defined as the portfolio weighted average of companies' Carbon Intensity (emissions/sales).

### Total Carbon Emissions (Scope 1 and 2)



	Fund	Benchmark
Total Carbon Emissions (tons CO2e)	29,951	211,744

Source: MSCI as at 31 March 2024. Includes Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions.

Total Carbon Emissions (tons CO2e) measures the total carbon emissions for which an investor is responsible by their equity ownership. Emissions are apportioned based on equity ownership (% market capitalisation).

Scope 1 emissions are direct emissions from owned or controlled sources.

Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy. Reference: GHG Protocol.

The decision to invest in the promoted fund should take into account all the characteristics or objectives of the promoted fund as described in its prospectus.

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