

Press Release

F&C Investment Trust Prize awarded to student team for the first time

- *The winning group achieved first place for their entry on sustainable and ethical principles affecting life choices*
- *The two individuals used knowledge from their own dissertations and wider degrees to form the basis of their submission*
- *The students have now been shortlisted to win the overall competition which could see University of Leeds faculty members win £5,000*

London, XX March 2020 – A team of students from the University of Leeds have won the “F&C Investment Trust Prize”, marking the first group to win the coveted award. Members of the team included Eugenia Angesti Meganingtyas, reading International Relations, and Frea Marie Pilla Repospolo, reading Asia Pacific Studies and International Relations.

The team developed an educational video looking at what it means to be both ethical and sustainable and why we feel a growing need to be more responsible in our daily lives. The group identified that, as citizens of the earth, we should be questioning, involving and engaging with the way we produce and consume to have a positive impact on the world we live in. The submission also addressed the changing face of the investment landscape, as citizens look to align their financial choices with their own ethical principles.

The team has won £1,000 worth of vouchers between them and will now be shortlisted alongside entries from Queen’s University Belfast, University of Bristol and the City of Glasgow College. The overall winner, which will be announced in April, receives £5,000 for their school faculty.

The winning submission can be found [here](#).

About F&C Investment Trust Prize

This is the first year that F&C Investment Trust has run the competition in partnership with the University of Leeds and opened submissions to group entries.

The competition, designed to showcase students’ financial understanding, invited entrants to answer one of the three following questions:

1. *How do young people today provide for their future?*
2. *How does sustainability and ethical principles affect your choices?*
3. *How will diversity and inclusion continue to impact society?*

Taking about their winning entry, Megan and Frea said: *“We are hugely excited to receive this award from F&C Investment Trust and even more proud to be the first group to do so. Sustainability is a pressing issue for our generation, and the ethical principles we abide by will impact our own lives as well as those around us. This competition allowed us to express our own thoughts and feelings about being ethically sound and how investments of the future will have to adapt to follow suit.”*

“The competition taught us that you don’t need extensive knowledge of sustainability or numbers in order to invest in a responsible way and make a difference. We can all become a part of this movement towards a better, more sustainable future.”

Greg Miller, Head of Student Placement, University of Leeds said: *“Our congratulations go to the successful team whose collaborative efforts make them deserving winners. We are delighted to be involved with the F&C Investment Trust prize for its second successful year. This is no doubt a competition we would like to run at the university for years to come. It has been a great opportunity for our students, across all disciplines, to address challenging global issues through creative content, reflections and solutions.”*

Kerry Dean, Vice President, Direct to Consumer, Marketing at BMO said: *“As a University of Leeds alumni, I’d like to say a huge well done to Megan and Freya, the first joint recipients of the Prize. Their successful submission showed great cooperation and was both creative and educational, proving to be a great example of why we opened up the competition to team entries.”*

“This competition forms part of our ongoing commitment to financial education, which increasingly includes sustainable investment as people look to align their financial decisions with ethical principles. We must work towards making a more positive impact on our environment as well as society, and our ability to manage money through financial skills and knowledge will play a crucial role in this.”

Young peoples and financial education

Research by BMO and F&C Investment Trust shows that there is an appetite for financial education among young people – especially among 16 to 21-year olds (Generation Z):

- Almost nine out of 10 (87%) Gen Zs say they want more help when it comes to their finances
- Over a third (36%) say they would be encouraged to save more money if teachers taught them how to save at school
- Half of this age group (50%) would appreciate financial education around investing money
- A similar number of Gen Zs would like help with saving products (47%)
- More than one in three (34%) young people would like help understanding financial jargon (34%)
- Families can also play an important role in financial education as one in five (20%) 16 to 21-year olds say they would save more money if their family talked about it more often

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Notes

1. Further details about all the entries and the Prize can be found online at: <https://www.bmogam.com/fandc-investment-trust/fcit-prize-home/>
2. Judges included: A BMO representative, Deirdre Lynskey, Student Development Manager at Careers Employability and Skills at Queen's University and Gareth Campbell, Professor, Queen's University Belfast.
3. The data in this release is from two separate pieces of research:
 - i) Online survey of 4,519 people aged 16+ conducted by Opinium from 20-27 March 2019
 - ii) Online Survey of over 2,004 people aged 16-21 conducted by Censuswide from 25-29 March 2019
4. Both F&C Investment Trust and BMO Global Asset Management are committed to improving financial education and increasing financial literacy for future generations, so they can achieve financial security. They support a range of projects to help young people understand how saving and investing can help short-term life goals, as well as long-term ambitions. Learn about the projects at: www.bmogam.com/fandc-investment-trust/our-commitment-to-financial-education

About University of Leeds

The University of Leeds, established in 1904, is a public research university in West Yorkshire. As one of the largest higher education institutions in the UK, the University strives to achieve academic excellence within an ethical framework informed by our values of integrity, equality and inclusion, community and professionalism.

About F&C Investment Trust

Launched in March 1868, F&C Investment Trust is the oldest collective investment fund and has since gone on to amass an impressive track record and grow into one of the largest of its kind, with assets under management of £4.5bn (as at January 2020). Its aim is to generate long-term growth and income by investing primarily in an international portfolio of listed equities. The Trust is well diversified and cautiously managed, with exposure to over 450 individual companies from around the world. More at: www.bmogam.com/fandc-investment-trust/

About BMO Global Asset Management

BMO Global Asset Management is a global investment manager with offices in more than 25 cities in 14 countries, delivering service excellence to clients across five continents. Our four major investment centres in Toronto, Chicago, London and Hong Kong are complemented by a network of world-class specialist managers strategically located across the globe: BMO Real Estate Partners, LGM Investments, Pyrford International Ltd. BMO Global Asset Management is a signatory of the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment initiative (UNPRI). BMO Global Asset Management is a part of BMO Financial Group, a highly diversified financial services provider based in North America with total assets of CDN \$807 billion as of 31 January 2019, and over 45,000 employees.

The value of investments and income derived from them can go down as well as up as a result of market or currency movements and investors may not get back the original amount invested.