

Polymer Intervarsity ESG Case Challenge 2023

"Alpha x Impact"

Registration Pack

June 2023



POLYMER

ABOUT POLYMER



Polymer Capital Management (“Polymer”) is a multi-manager hedge fund platform that aims to generate consistent, low-volatility returns from a market neutral portfolio by combining strong investment talent with strict risk management, institutional scale and support. Asia-based and Asia-focused, all decision makers are based locally for real-time decision making. Polymer was formed in partnership with and supported by the robust infrastructure and resources of PAG, an established Asia-focused alternative investment management group.

We have **40+ diversified teams of investment professionals** and **50+ teams of dedicated non-investment professionals** across 10+ offices globally



ABOUT ESG INVESTING AT POLYMER

At Polymer, we recognize that understanding ESG factors strengthens our investment processes and creates opportunities to generate returns while making an impact – both in our communities and in the companies in which we invest.

Our ESG Philosophy

- **ESG-informed investment decisions** – we facilitate the incorporation of ESG considerations into investment analysis and decisions;
- **Impact-driven engagement** – we utilize internal ESG frameworks as part of our stewardship activities in order to influence corporate behavior and achieve sustainable outcomes together; and
- **ESG-based risk mitigation** – we focus on integrating ESG into risk management in order to mitigate risks and enhance risk-adjusted returns.

Our Pillars of ESG Investing



ABOUT THE ESG CASE CHALLENGE

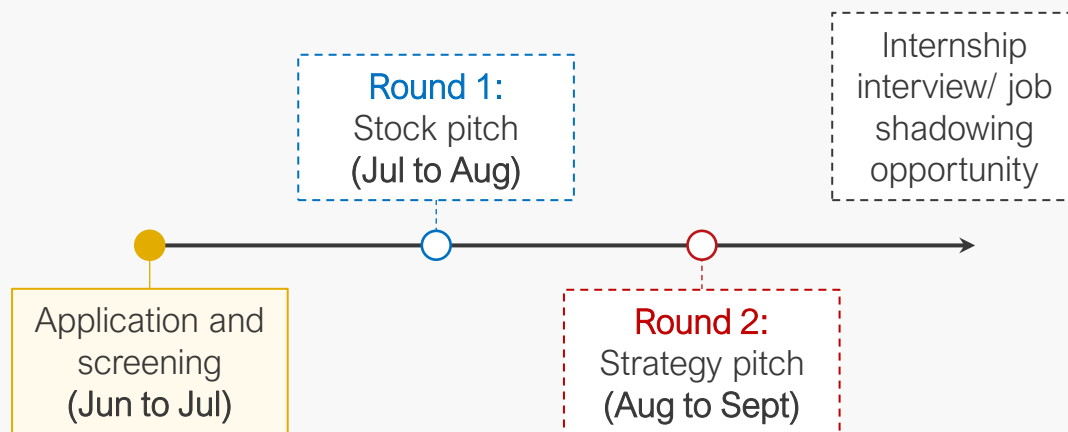
To catalyze sustainable development in the finance industry, we aspire to bring ESG investing to wider attention and cultivate young local talent through our youth empowerment initiatives

The Polymer Intervarsity ESG Case Challenge

We initiated a first-of-its-kind Intervarsity ESG Case Challenge in 2022 to promote ESG investing via attracting and cultivating young talent. Throughout the competition, we delivered lectures and challenged students to think outside of the box when developing their unique ESG investing and engagement strategies.

This year, we are once again inviting undergraduate students to participate in our ESG Case Challenge.

The 2023 ESG Case Challenge runs from June to September:



Through the ESG Case Challenge, we aim to:



Share about Polymer's unique company model and ESG approach



Tackle APAC-specific ESG challenges across different sectors



Cultivate young talent in ESG investing



Support local youth and talent development

2023 COMPETITION “ALPHA X IMPACT” – CHALLENGES



ESG considerations can be integrated into investment and stewardship strategies to enhance performance and mitigate risks through the ESG lens. However, financial institutions and markets traditionally tend to focus on financial metrics that are deemed to directly impact bottom line and cash flows. This approach has led to **three inherent and reciprocal challenges** faced by ESG integration:

	Challenge 1	Challenge 2	Challenge 3
	Oversimplification of ESG analysis by applying a set of common criteria or screens	Limitations of ESG data availability, transparency, consistencies and quality	Lack of impact measurement standards for quantifying contribution to real world impact
Status	More sector-specific analysis/ weighing taking into consideration materiality	More vendors offering ESG datasets with its unique methodologies	More standards and investment products mapping against the UN SDGs
Dilemma	Mismatch of ESG criteria and frameworks across different sectors and regions	Low transparency of methodologies and worsened inconsistencies	Potential “SDG-washing” or overclaiming of impact actually being achieved

“Alpha x Impact” is the theme of Polymer Intervarsity ESG Case Challenge 2023 – in the competition, you will be pitching your unique investment ideas taking into consideration the abovementioned challenges and finding your ways to alpha generation and impact creation

2023 COMPETITION “ALPHA X IMPACT” – SCENARIO



“Alpha x Impact” is the theme of Polymer Intervarsity ESG Case Challenge 2023

1 Scenario

- You are an equity analyst in an Asia-focused asset management firm with a belief that **excess returns (alpha), and sustainability goals (impact) can be achieved concurrently** via ESG integration.
- Your firm is planning to ultimately launch a **“Alpha x Impact” fund** that maximizes alpha and impact while minimizing downside risks by integrating ESG factors and assessing performance.
- Your team will pitch your **long/ short pair idea** to the portfolio manager (Round 1), and later pitch your **strategies** to the Investment Committee (Round 2).

2 Objectives and Tasks

Round	Round 1 – Pitch to Portfolio Manager “Alpha x Impact” long/ short pair pitch	Round 2 – Pitch to Investment Committee “Alpha x Impact” strategy pitch
Tasks	Use quantitative and/or qualitative approach to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set stock selection criteria assessing positive impact and financial returns • Generate and justify long/ short pair idea that could lead to alpha and impact 	Refine “Alpha x Impact” criteria and embed into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital allocation, portfolio construction and screening strategies (with stock ideas) • Approach to implement and evaluate stewardship efforts
Submission	Pitch deck and presentation recording	Pitch deck and ZOOM presentation plus Q&A

Note: More guidance and judging criteria will be provided in the orientation

2023 COMPETITION “ALPHA X IMPACT” – TIMELINE

Registration will close on 23 Jun (Fri) at 12:00pm HKT

No.	Key Milestones	Important dates	
1	Launch of Case Challenge Invite universities to participate in teams of 3	1 Jun (Thurs)	
2	Team registration Deadline to register for entry	23 Jun (Fri) 12:00pm HKT	Application and screening (no.1 to 3)
3	Preliminary screening and announcement Polymer to contact teams entering round 1	7 Jul (Fri)	
4	Orientation and training (round 1) Polymer to introduce round 1 and provide training	10 Jul (Mon)	
5	Pitch deck and video submission Teams to submit pitch deck and video recording	31 Jul (Mon)	Round 1 competition (no.4 to 6)
6	Submission review and finalists announcement Polymer to contact teams entering round 2	14 Aug (Mon)	
7	Orientation and training (round 2) Introduce round 2 and provide training	22 Aug (Tue)	Round 2 competition (no.7 to 8)
8	Final presentation and judging Final round of competition	22 Sept (Fri)	

2023 COMPETITION “ALPHA X IMPACT” – OPPORTUNITIES



Why participate?

Making an impact and becoming a changemaker

Our competition emphasizes impact creation as it encourages participants to explore how investments can become a means of contributing to lasting and measurable real-world impact alongside financial returns. We also pinpoint three key challenges for participants to address while building your pitch.

Showcasing your outstanding qualities and building confidence

Our competition will sharpen participants' competitive edge as it allows for the flexibility to showcase your unique ideas and take ownership of your learning, boosting your confidence in your own abilities. Participant in such pioneering competitions may also get you on the radar of potential employers.

Putting your skills into practice and gaining insights

Our competition provides participants a chance to practice various skillsets and gain insights that will come in handy in a professional workplace setting. Participants will conduct in-depth sector and market research, design your own innovative frameworks and present to judges who are seasoned industry experts.

Earning a fast-tracked internship interview opportunity

Winners will be offered an attractive interview opportunity for our 2024 summer internship, including a series of events to elevate your experience and deepen exchanges. We received over 1,700 applications in the 2023 program while only a limited number of applicants were selected to compete for 10+ internship openings.

Building connection with ESG and investment professionals

Throughout the competition, we will provide tailored training, learning materials and guidance to walk you through the journey. We also plan to arrange post-competition activities such as mentoring sessions and job shadowing, providing outstanding participants valuable opportunities to build your professional network, and continue learning from ESG and investment professionals at Polymer and outside of the firm.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Rules & Important Information (1/2)

Team Formation

- Regardless of field of study, undergraduate students who are currently enrolled in the same university are welcome to form your own team of 2-3 members and submit 1 application together as a team.
- There will be no limitation to number of applications from one school, but each student can only join 1 team.

Application

- Applications must be submitted via the registration form (<https://forms.gle/zQQGfXU5JfpdiKDa8>) by 23 Jun (Fri) 12:00pm HKT.
- In the registration form, you will be asked to submit information of the team and each teammate, as well as to upload each teammate's CVs. Please collect necessary information from all teammates and submit only 1 application together as a team.

Preliminary Screening

- All complete and on-time applications will be screened, and preference will be given to those with relevant background and experience.
- Up to 3 teams from the same university may be selected to enter Round 1 after preliminary screening.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Rules & Important Information (2/2)

Virtual Orientations

- There will be two rounds of virtual orientations – one for each round of competition.
- Teams entering each round will be required to attend the respective orientation to learn about the case, judging criteria and rundown, as well as to receive a tailored lecture on ESG investing and raise questions in Q&A.

Round 1 Deliverables and Expectations

- All teams in Round 1 will have about 3 weeks to prepare. Teams will be required to submit your pitch deck (pdf) and presentation (video) online. Contents of the pitch deck will consist of up to 8 slides, and the presentation will be limited to 8 minutes.

Round 2 Deliverables and Expectations

- A total of 4 teams (from any universities) will be selected to enter Round 2. Finalist teams will have about 5 weeks to prepare before submitting your pitch deck and presenting to our judges via ZOOM.

Note: Judging criteria for Round 1 and Round 2 will be explained separately in the respective orientation. Please refer to the competition timeline regarding the orientation schedule, submission deadline and final presentation.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at esg@polymercapital.com