

Polymer Intervarsity ESG Case Challenge 2024

Registration Pack
July 2024



POLYMER

POLYMER CAPITAL MANAGEMENT



Polymer Capital Management (“Polymer”) is a multi-manager platform that aims to generate consistent, low-volatility returns by combining strong investment talent with strict risk management

Multi-manager platform



Asia focus

Over USD4B AUM

60+ Investment teams

A world map with a red tint, showing the outlines of continents. Several small red diamond markers are placed on the map to indicate office locations: one in North America, one in Europe, one in Asia, and one in Australia.

We have 60+ diversified teams of investment professionals and 50+ teams of dedicated non-investment professionals across 10+ offices globally

ESG AT POLYMER

At Polymer, we aim to...

Facilitate incorporation of ESG considerations into investment analysis and decisions

ESG-informed investment decisions



Integrate ESG into risk management to mitigate risks and enhance risk-adjusted returns

ESG-based risk mitigation



Impact-driven engagement



Influence corporate behavior and decisions via our stewardship and engagement activities

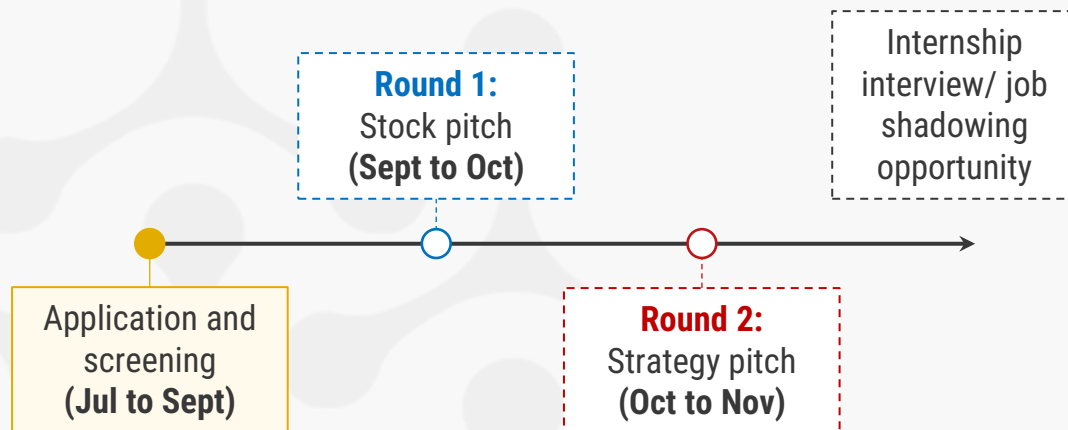
POLYMER ESG CASE CHALLENGE

We aspire to bring ESG investing to wider attention and cultivate young local talent through our youth empowerment initiatives

The Polymer Intersvarsity ESG Case Challenge

We initiated this first-of-its-kind Intersvarsity ESG Case Challenge in 2022 to promote ESG investing via attracting and cultivating young talent. This year, we are once again inviting undergraduate students to participate in our ESG Case Challenge.

The 2024 ESG Case Challenge runs from **July to November**:



Our aims:



Share about Polymer's unique company model and ESG approach



Tackle ESG challenges across different sectors in the region



Cultivate young talent in ESG investing





Support local youth and talent development

THE CASE FOR 2024 – CONTEXT

The climate transition requires investments to align decarbonization trajectory with the Paris Agreement Goal to safeguard average temperature increase within 1.5°C

Especially in the Asia Pacific (APAC) region, where we see:

 <h3>Fragmented Climate Policy Landscape</h3> <p>Jurisdictions in developed and emerging markets have inconsistent requirements and agenda for decarbonization, while climate finance also remains a challenge due to fragmentation across subregions</p>	 <h3>Delayed Climate Actions</h3> <p>The region has reduced its carbon intensity by 2.8% in 2022 but it still falls short of the required rate for decarbonization in line with the Paris Goal – accelerated policy and market transition is much needed for the region to keep pace</p>	 <h3>Highest Emitting Countries</h3> <p>Asia accounts for >60% of global CO2 emissions in 2022, and is home to 8 out of 10 top emitting countries including China (31.6% emissions), India (7.8%), Japan (2.9%), Indonesia (2.0%), Iran (1.9%) and Saudi Arabia (1.8%)</p>	 <h3>Existential Climate Threats</h3> <p>Being home to a population of 4.75 billion, 6 of the largest coastal mega-cities (e.g., Tokyo, Shanghai, Dhaka, Bangkok) and major biodiversity hotspots, Asia is hit the hardest by climate impacts, such as extreme weather and sea level rise</p>
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[Asia Pacific Climate Actions not on Track \(Jan 2024\)](#)
[Climate Action Tracker \(Apr 2024\)](#)

[Global Carbon Budget \(2023\)](#) – with major processing by Our World in Data
[UNDP 2024 Asia-Pacific Human Development Report \(Nov 2023\)](#)

THE CASE FOR 2024 – TASKS

Financial institutions play a critical role in accelerating climate mitigation and adaptation and supporting a just climate transition

The World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA) assesses companies' contributions to the SDGs and develops various SDG benchmarks. Its **Climate & Energy Benchmark** is an accountability mechanism that measures corporate progress against the Paris Agreement and whether companies are contributing to a just transition.



Objectives and Tasks		
Round	Round 1 – Stock Pick	Round 2 – Investment Strategy
Tasks	Present 1 long OR short stock from the Climate & Energy Benchmark and an APAC market , and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justify sector & market chosen • Identify outperforming qualities • Evaluate companies' response to climate change & just transition, and examine any implications on stock price 	Develop your APAC-focused investment strategy (either Long-only OR Long/Short), and present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment thesis • ESG characteristic and screens applied • Back-testing performance • Top constituents • Stewardship approach
Submission	Pitch deck and presentation recording	Pitch deck and presentation plus Q&A

THE CASE FOR 2024 – TIMELINE

Registration will close on **4 September (Wed) at 12:00pm local time**

No.	Key Milestones	Important dates
1	Launch of Case Challenge Invite universities to participate in teams of 3	Early July
2	Team registration Deadline to register for entry	4 September (Wed)
3	Preliminary screening and announcement Polymer to contact teams entering round 1	6 September (Fri)
4	Orientation and training (round 1) Polymer to introduce round 1 and provide training	11 September (Wed)
5	Pitch deck and video submission Teams to submit pitch deck and video recording	30 September (Mon)
6	Submission review and finalists announcement Polymer to contact teams entering round 2	9 October (Wed)
7	Orientation and training (round 2) Introduce round 2 and provide training	14 October (Mon)
8	Final presentation and judging Final round of competition	8 November (Fri)

**Application
and screening
(no.1 to 3)**

**Round 1
competition
(no.4 to 6)**

**Round 2
competition
(no.7 to 8)**

WHY PARTICIPATE?

Gain ESG Investment insights and skillsets

Our competition emphasizes ESG investing to generate financial returns and mitigate risks. Through hands-on experience and real-world applications, you'll develop **critical skillsets essential for evaluating and integrating ESG factors into investment decisions.**

Enhance your employability and build confidence

Our competition sharpens participants' competitive edge by providing the flexibility to showcase your unique ideas and take ownership of your learning, boosting your confidence in your abilities. Participating in such a pioneering competition can also put you on the radar of potential employers, **enhancing your career prospects and professional network.**

Compete with your peers across this region

Compete with elite students from top universities across Asia. This competition offers an **invaluable opportunity to exchange insights and ideas.** Engage with peers from diverse background, broaden your perspectives, and build a network of future leaders in the finance industry.

Earn a fast-tracked internship interview opportunity

Winners will be offered an **attractive fast-tracked interview opportunity for our 2025 summer internship,** including a series of events to elevate your experience and deepen exchanges with industry experts. We received over 2,000+ applications in the 2024 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 enrolled in the same university (both at the time of application and throughout the competition) 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](#) by 4 September (Wednesday) local time.
- In the registration form, you will be asked to submit information of the team and each teammate, as well as to submit 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, and to receive a tailored lecture on ESG investing and raise any questions.

Round 1 Deliverables and Expectations

- All teams in Round 1 will have about 2.5 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 5 teams (from any universities) will be selected to enter Round 2. Finalist teams will have about 4 weeks to prepare before submitting your pitch deck and presenting to our judges.

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