# U.S. Core Plus Fixed Income



## **Objective**

The strategy's objective is to achieve total return through a combination of current income and capital appreciation. Brandywine Global's goal is to outperform the Investment Benchmark by 1.5% (net of fees), on an average annual basis, over a full market cycle.

## **Investment Philosophy**

We believe that with our top-down, macroeconomic-driven investment approach to seeking value and anticipating risk, we can consistently outperform the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Index.

## **Investment Process Summary**

Strategic portfolio decisions, including duration, yield curve exposure, credit exposure, and sector weightings, are based upon the broad investment themes of our global macroeconomic research platform congruent with valuation. The portfolio management team develops a viewpoint on both the valuation opportunity and the business cycle and positions the strategy's duration, sector weighting, and credit exposures accordingly.

# Our Competitive Advantage

The strategy employs a top-down, value-based, and benchmark-agnostic approach for managing domestic fixed income assets. Backed by a rigorous macroeconomic research process designed to anticipate risk and uncover value, the strategy targets sovereigns with an attractive combination of high real yields and durable fundamentals.

### **Portfolio Construction**

The strategy invests in fixed income securities and cash or cash equivalents. We believe skillfully toggling between safe-haven and risk-seeking betas can lead to superior risk-adjusted outcomes overtime, and the potential for material increases in absolute return figures. We expect to have exposure in the following sectors: Treasuries, Corporate – IG, Corporate – HY, Agency and Non-Agency ABS/MBS, and Non-US sovereigns, with a focus on U.S. fixed income. Portfolio holdings are limited to our highest conviction ideas.

## **Duration Management**

Portfolio duration typically can range +/-5 years from the benchmark. We have the flexibility to reduce portfolio duration should we believe duration risk poses a significant threat to capital preservation.



#### At a Glance

- Primary Benchmark: Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Index
- Investment process applies the top-down macroeconomic investment themes of our Global Fixed Income team
- U.S.-centric fixed income solution that prudently allocates to less traditional market segments in an effort to deliver improved outcomes
- Investments typically are concentrated in sectors and individual issuers that we believe offer the best total return potential

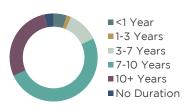
#### Characteristics<sup>1,2</sup>

|                            | Strategy | Benchmark |
|----------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Avg. Quality <sup>3</sup>  | AA       | AA        |
| Avg. Maturity (Yrs.)       | 21.94    | 8.46      |
| Avg. Eff. Duration (Yrs.)  | 7.78     | 6.24      |
| Avg. Coupon (%)            | 4.69     | 3.19      |
| Current Yield (%)          | 4.78     | 3.38      |
| Avg. Yield-to-Maturity (%) | 5.12     | 4.53      |
| Number of Issues           | 34       | 13,334    |

### Quality Ratings<sup>1,2</sup> (%)



■BB or Lower



Duration Allocation<sup>1,2</sup> (%)

## Sector Weights by Duration Contribution<sup>1,2</sup> (In Years)

| Government Related | 6.14 |
|--------------------|------|
| Securitized        | 1.40 |
| Corporate          | 0.24 |
| Cash               | -    |
| Total              | 7.78 |

#### Assets Under Management (M) (Shown in USD)

| Brandywine Global, Firmwide | 59,468 |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Fixed Income Product Group  | 46,600 |
| U.S. Core Plus Fixed Income | 1,006  |

#### Calendar Year Returns<sup>2</sup> (%) (Results shown in USD)

|      | Gross  | Net    | BUSA   |
|------|--------|--------|--------|
| 2023 | 3.95   | 3.58   | 5.53   |
| 2022 | -12.44 | -12.75 | -13.01 |
| 2021 | -1.61  | -1.95  | -1.54  |
| 2020 | 18.35  | 17.94  | 7.51   |
| 2019 | 11.08  | 10.70  | 8.72   |
| 2018 | 2.50   | 2.32   | 1.66   |
| 2017 | -      | -      | -      |
| 2016 | -      | -      | -      |
| 2015 | -      | -      | -      |
| 2014 | -      | -      | -      |
| 2013 | -      | -      | -      |

### Risk Characteristics<sup>2</sup> (Composite Net of Fees) (Since Inception)

| Sharpe Ratio      | 0.12 |
|-------------------|------|
| Sortino Ratio     | 0.18 |
| Information Ratio | 0.28 |

## **Portfolio Managers**



**Anujeet Sareen, CFA**Portfolio Manager
29 Years of Experience



Jack P. McIntyre, CFA Portfolio Manager 36 Years of Experience



**Brian L. Kloss, JD, CPA**Portfolio Manager
27 Years of Experience



Tracy Chen, CFA, CAIA Portfolio Manager 21 Years of Experience



**Kevin O'Neil**Assoc. Portfolio Manager & Sr. Research Analyst 23 Years of Experience



## Annualized Returns (%) (Results shown in USD)

|                 | Gross | Net   | BUSA  |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| QTD             | 10.82 | 10.73 | 6.82  |
| YTD             | 3.95  | 3.58  | 5.53  |
| 1 Year          | 3.95  | 3.58  | 5.53  |
| 3 Year          | -3.61 | -3.95 | -3.31 |
| 5 Year          | 3.31  | 2.95  | 1.10  |
| Since Inception | 3.47  | 3.11  | 1.30  |
|                 |       |       |       |

Inception Date: 7/1/2018

# GIPS Information (%, unless otherwise noted) (Results shown in USD)

| Year or<br>YTD | Gross  | Net    | BUSA   | # of<br>Accounts | Market Value<br>(M) | Total Firm Assets (M) | Composite<br>Dispersion | Composite<br>Rolling 3Y<br>SD | BUSA Rolling<br>3Y SD |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2023           | 3.95   | 3.58   | 5.53   | 2                | 1,021               | 59,468                | -                       | 11.59                         | 7.14                  |
| 2022           | -12.44 | -12.75 | -13.01 | 2                | 1,002               | 52,601                | -                       | 10.64                         | 5.77                  |
| 2021           | -1.61  | -1.95  | -1.54  | 2                | 1,062               | 67,356                | -                       | 7.25                          | 3.35                  |
| 2020           | 18.35  | 17.94  | 7.51   | 2                | 313                 | 63,872                | -                       | -                             | -                     |
| 2019           | 11.08  | 10.70  | 8.72   | 1                | 98                  | 74,024                | -                       | -                             | -                     |
| 2018           | 2.50   | 2.32   | 1.66   | 1                | 33                  | 70,070                | -                       | -                             | -                     |

Data as of December 31, 2023 BUSA = Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Organization: Brandywine Global Investment Management, LLC (the "Firm") is a wholly owned, independently operated, subsidiary of Franklin Resources, Inc. Brandywine Global Investment Management, LLC has been independently verified for the periods. January 1, 1993 through June 30, 2022. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS standards. Brandywine Global Investment Management, LLC has been independently verified for the periods. January 1, 1993 through June 30, 2022. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS standards must establish policies and procedures for complying with all the applicable requirements of the GIPS standards. Verification provides assurance on whether the firm's policies and procedures related to composite not provide assurance on the accuracy of any specific performance, have been designed in compliance with the GIPS standards and have been implemented on a firm-wide basis. Verification does not provide assurance on the accuracy of any specific performance report. Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS Reports are available upon request. Disclosed total firm assets represent the total market value of all discretionary and nondiscretionary, fee-paying and non-fee-paying assets under the Firm's management. GIPSA Gego is a registered trademark of CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein. Composite Description: The U.S. Core Plus Fixed Income Composite (the "Composite") Inception date: July 1, 2018. Creation date: November 1, 2019. The Composite invests primarily in debt securities, such as U.S. Government and corporate obligations, bonds, notes, debentures, mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities. The strategy may also invests primarily in debt securities and asset-backed securities of foreign issuers; including securities. The strategy seeks to provide maximum current income and achi

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#### **Disclosures**

Benchmark = BUSA BUSA = Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Index

- 1 The data represent the aggregate characteristics of all securities held in the respective Representative Portfolio, an actual commission account not subject to taxation, and are included for informational purposes only. The Portfolio Characteristics of any particular account may vary based on any investment restrictions applicable to that account.
- 2 Supplemental Information to the attached U.S. Core Plus Fixed Income GIPS report.
- 3 The "Average Quality" is determined by assigning numerical scores to each credit rating and calculating a weighted average for the securities held in the portfolio. The numeric score calculated for the entire portfolio is then converted back into the corresponding credit rating. Individual security ratings are determined by using the middle rating from the three major NRSROs (S & P, Moody's, and Fitch) assigned to each security. In the event that ratings are provided by only two agencies, the lowest rating will be assigned. If only one agency assigns a rating, that rating will be applied. If the security is not rated by one of the three major agencies, U.S. treasuries and certain U.S. agencies are given the U.S. issuer rating. Sovereign treasuries are given the sovereign issuer rating. All other unrated securities are given a rating equivalent to a defaulted bond. Cash is included and receives the highest rating.

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