



**CFA Society
Italy**

FACTSET

CFA Society Italy Fund Management Challenge 2026

A competition among university teams, each of which aims to assess investment opportunities and maximize the return of a long-short equity portfolio.

The competition is open to Italian universities. Eligible participants are students enrolled, as of the last day of the registration period, in the first or second year of a master's degree program within the same School or Faculty, or in master's degree programs managed by the same Department.

University registration period: November 10, 2025 – November 28, 2025

Team registration period: December 1, 2025 – December 19, 2025

Competition period: February 6, 2026 – May 29, 2026

CFA Society Italy (CFASI), established in Italy in 1999, is a non-profit association that brings together professionals working in the financial sector who share a commitment to the highest standards of integrity, education, and professional excellence.

All members adhere to the **Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct**, promoted by **CFA Institute**. Most CFASI members have earned the **CFA® (Chartered Financial Analyst®)** designation, which is internationally recognized as the gold standard in the investment profession.

CFASI is affiliated with **CFA Institute**, a prestigious global association of investment professionals with more than 200,000 members worldwide. CFA Institute works internationally to promote the importance of developing and upholding rigorous standards for education, integrity, and professional excellence.

The eligibility criteria, procedures, and deadlines for submitting applications are specified in this Regulation.

RULES

Chapter 1: General Provisions

Art. 1 – Definitions and Notes

CFASI: CFA Society Italy, the local association of CFA charterholders.

Organizing Committee: A group of CFASI volunteer members who, in collaboration with CFASI staff, carry out the planned activities and coordinate CFASI and the Other Entities as necessary for the proper execution of the Fund Management Challenge.

Other Entities: Providers of goods and/or services necessary or instrumental to the execution of the Fund Management Challenge. Among the Other Entities are the Software Provider, FactSet, the Partners, and the entities responsible for managing the venue and related services for the award event.

Third Parties: Any entity other than CFASI, the Organizing Committee, and the Other Entities.

Partner: Any entity, company, organization, or individual that supports the competition through sponsorships or collaboration agreements, contributing financial resources, goods, services, or other forms of support.

Competition / Challenge: The Fund Management Challenge (FMC).

Quality Index: See *FMC Quality Index*.

Rebalancing: Any change in the composition of the portfolio.

Rebalancing Day: Each trading day when all markets included in the competition are open.

Reference Basket: A group of large-cap stocks traded on markets located in the Euro area or in the United States.

Base Currency: Euro (EUR).

Dates: All dates refer to the calendar year in which the competition ends, unless otherwise specified.

Platform: The web-based software used for managing the competition, including the creation, modification, and monitoring of portfolios, the submission of investment rationales, and communication between Teams and organizers.

Team Leader: The member of a Team responsible for coordinating activities and entering investment transactions through the Platform. The Team Leader serves as the main point of contact between the Team and the Organizing Committee.

FMC Quality Index (FMC QI): An index that measures the quality of the investment rationales submitted by each Team, based on evaluations by professionals from the financial sector. The index assigns a maximum score of 100 to the Team with the best investment rationales and a minimum score of 0 to the Team with the weakest ones. All other Teams receive intermediate scores proportional to the quality of their investment rationales, as assessed by the graders.

Art. 2 – Purpose of the Competition and Code of Conduct. The competition has an educational purpose. Its primary objectives are to:

- offer students the opportunity to engage in equity portfolio management and to help them understand - through a realistic simulation of professional equity investment - the individual and Team skills required to achieve the best results;
- promote education and learning in the methods and tools typical of institutional investment, in particular fundamental analysis and portfolio theory;
- teach the basic principles of professional ethics and conduct.

Students are expected to maintain a sportsmanlike and respectful attitude throughout the competition. They must also, together with their Professor and any Coordinator designated by the Professor, maintain - before, during, and after the competition - a communication style characterized by clarity, balance, courtesy, and professionalism toward CFASI, the Organizing Committee, the Other Entities, the other participating Teams, and third parties.

Art. 3 - Deadline for University Registration. The deadline for university registration is November 28, 2025.

Art. 4 – Team Registration Period. The registration period begins with the email invitation granting access to the Platform, starting Tuesday, December 1, 2025 (beginning of the registration period), and ends on Friday, December 19, 2025 (final deadline for the registration of all participants).

Art. 5 – Competition Duration. The competition begins on Friday, February 6, 2026 (start date of the competition) and ends on Friday, May 29, 2026 (end date of the competition).

Chapter 2: Participation

Art. 6 – Number of Teams and Eligibility Requirements for Students. A maximum of fourteen (14) Teams will be admitted to the competition. Each Team must consist of a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) students from the same university, enrolled as of December 19, 2025, in the first or second year of a master's degree program offered by the same School or Department.

Students belonging to a Team may also be enrolled in the first or second year of a master's degree program offered by a different School or Department, provided that:

1. their number does not represent the majority of the Team (i.e., 1 out of 3, 2 out of 4, or 2 out of 5), including after any replacements (see Article 17);
2. the professors from both master's programs are involved in the FMC project, either as professors or as coordinators designated by them;

3. the mixed group of students actively works to share complementary skills that contribute to the learning and development of all Team members, in alignment with the educational objectives and values of the FMC.

In particular, professors involved in the project assume joint and several responsibility for the management of the Team and commit to supporting the group as a whole, regardless of the School or Department affiliation of its members.

The requirement under point (2) above does not apply if the same professor holds a faculty position in both Schools or Departments.

Students participating in the CFASI Fund Management Challenge are not eligible to participate in the CFA Research Challenge during the same academic year.

If the number of applications exceeds the limit specified in paragraph 1, the Organizing Committee will select the participating Teams based on the order in which applications are received, giving priority to those submitted first.

Art. 7 – Team Organization and Coordination. Each Team shall be supervised by a university Professor belonging to the same Faculty/School and/or Department. The Professor may delegate the role of Team Coordinator to another faculty member or researcher within the same Faculty/School and/or Department. The Coordinator cannot be a student.

Communication between the Organizing Committee and the Teams shall take place primarily through the chat and notification services available on the Platform. If such channels are not available, or in communications involving other entities or the CFASI Secretariat, email shall be used instead.

In case of email communication:

- the Team Leader must include the Professor and/or Coordinator in copy (cc), and the subject line must indicate the name of the University;
- it is recommended that the other Team members be copied on communications with the Organizing Committee, the CFASI Secretariat, and other relevant entities;
- any communication addressed to third parties must include both the Organizing Committee and the CFASI Secretariat in copy.

The Team Leader is responsible for distributing communications from the Organizing Committee to all Team members, ensuring that they are received and read. The Team Leader must also keep the Professor and/or Coordinator informed of all relevant communications. Any message sent to a single Team member shall be deemed delivered to the entire Team. Messages not sent directly by the Team Leader must always include them in copy (cc).

If a FAQ guide has been distributed, participants are required to consult it before contacting the Organizing Committee, the CFASI Secretariat, or other entities involved.

All communications addressed to the Organizing Committee must be sent to the following email address: fmc@cfasi.it.

Professors, Coordinators, Team Leaders, and students are expected to keep communications with the CFASI Secretariat, the Organizing Committee, and other entities concise and efficient, limiting the content to half an A4 page and keeping attachments to what is strictly necessary.

The Organizing Committee and CFA Society Italy reserve the right to invite Professors and/or Coordinators to attend video conferences related to the FMC. Professors and Coordinators are expected to participate in such meetings, subject to their availability.

Art. 8 – University Application for Registration. The university application for registration must be submitted by email to the CFASI Secretariat at fmc@cfasi.it, with the subject line: “Fund Management Challenge – 2026 Registration”, and must include the Professor’s full name and institutional email address.

The application must be submitted by the registration deadline specified at the beginning of this Regulation. Applications received after this deadline will not be accepted.

A list containing the names of Professors and Coordinators may be shared among Professors/Coordinators, unless otherwise requested by any of them.

Art. 9 – Registration. On the first day of the Team registration period, as specified at the beginning of this Regulation, the Professor will receive an email invitation to complete the registration on the Platform.

During the registration process, the Professor shall indicate:

- the Team name,
- the Team members, and
- the Team Leader.

The Team name must consist of no more than three (3) words, with a minimum of five (5) and a maximum of twenty-five (25) characters, including spaces. The Team name may not contain trademarks, names, acronyms, or any other designations for which the Team does not have authorization to use (for example, CFA). The Team name may be used to identify the Team before, during, and after the competition, including in communications with third parties.

During registration, the Professor shall also invite the students who intend to participate in the competition via the dedicated page available on the Platform.

Upon receipt of the invitation email, each student must complete their individual registration on the Platform by filling in all required fields.

To facilitate the installation of FactSet workstations, institutional email addresses must be used - i.e., those with a university or institutional domain (for example, @unive.it, @unipd.it are institutional addresses; @gmail.com, @yahoo.it are not).

At the end of the registration period, as specified at the beginning of this Regulation, the Team Leader is responsible for collecting and submitting the curricula vitae of all Team members by email to the CFASI Secretariat at segreteria@cfasi.it, with the subject line: "FMC 2026 – CV – [Name of University]".

The email must copy (cc) the Professor and/or Coordinator, as well as all Team members.

Each curriculum vitae must:

- be written in English,
- be no longer than one page,
- contain no photograph, and
- be submitted in both Word and PDF formats.

Formatting (headings, font type, layout, etc.) is left to the discretion of the student.

Chapter 3: Competition Structure and Procedures

Art. 10 – Determination of the Winning Teams. The determination of the winning Teams takes place in two stages:

First, Teams that - regardless of their portfolio performance - rank below the 40th percentile based on the FMC Quality Index at the end of the competition are excluded.

Subsequently, among the remaining Teams, the winners are determined based on their portfolio performance, net of transaction costs and any applicable penalties.

Art. 11 – Role and Replacement of the Team Leader. The Team Leader is responsible for managing the Team's portfolio operations and for coordinating and assisting the Team's activities.

The Team Leader is the only individual authorized to enter transactions related to portfolio creation, modification, and rebalancing, as well as to update investment rationales. Each Team may have only one Team Leader.

The Team Leader may transfer their role to another Team member at any time through the Platform.

Art. 12 – Portfolio Construction and Rebalancing. The investment portfolio must consist of ten (10) distinct securities, of which five (5) are long positions and five (5) are short positions, each having approximately the same portfolio weight. All securities must belong to the Reference Basket. The use of certain securities within the basket may be subject to specific restrictions.

Each Team must enter its initial portfolio through the Platform by 5:00 p.m. on the competition start date indicated in Article 5, following the same procedures established for portfolio rebalancing.

The portfolio may be rebalanced or modified from time to time. Each new portfolio must contain five (5) long positions and five (5) short positions, all drawn from the Reference Basket.

Portfolio rebalancing transactions must be submitted through the Platform by 5:00 p.m. on the Rebalancing Day. For valuation purposes, the closing prices in euros on the Rebalancing Day, as provided by FactSet, will be used.

Art. 13 – Operational Constraints: Portfolio modification operations may be subject to additional restrictions, which will be specified within the Platform.

Such restrictions may include, but are not limited to, limits on the total number of orders that may be executed within a given period or constraints on specific operational parameters, such as trading frequency or time limits for order entry.

In addition, minimum and maximum thresholds will be established for both individual position weights and available cash holdings.

Art. 14 – Investment Rationale. Every decision to open, close, or modify a long or short position must be accompanied by a concise explanation in English describing the reasoning behind the investment. This explanation must be entered in the designated fields provided on the Platform. Each field must contain the required rationale, which may not exceed 250 characters, including spaces and special characters.

The investment rationale constitutes a fundamental part of the investment process. It is mandatory and must include financial arguments consistent with the recommendation.

The reasoning must be based on fundamental, quantitative, and technical considerations. If quantitative or technical elements are included, they must always be presented together with fundamental arguments.

In cases where technical or quantitative analyses contradict the fundamental analysis, the rationale must clearly explain the reason for the divergence from the fundamental view.

The Organizing Committee reserves the right to warn or sanction investment recommendations that violate this Regulation and/or fail to meet minimum standards of reasonableness, or that breach the ethical principles set out in the CFA Institute Code of Ethics. Such judgments are final and not subject to appeal.

Art. 15 – Transaction Costs. The initial portfolio construction and each subsequent operation are subject to a transaction cost of 0.15% for each trade on each security (for example, replacing one short investment position with another short investment position will incur a total transaction cost of 0.30%).

Art. 16 – Investment Policy Statement and Additional Requirements

After completing the registration phase, and before submitting the initial portfolio, each Team must prepare an Investment Policy Statement (IPS) outlining its investment objectives, risk considerations, and investment strategy. The IPS must be drafted with accuracy, honesty, and

professionalism, and all investment decisions during the Competition must remain consistent with it.

The content of the IPS is the sole responsibility of the Team and may be shared as submitted, including any errors or omissions.

In addition, the Organizing Committee may request that Teams submit an Investment Presentation and/or complete one or more knowledge assessments, such as baseline or final questionnaires.

If requested, these submissions are mandatory, and the relevant instructions, formats, and deadlines will be communicated via email or through the Platform. These requirements are intended to support the educational goals of the Competition and do not influence the ranking or portfolio evaluation of the Teams.

Failure to complete them within the communicated deadlines may result in administrative measures at the discretion of the Organizing Committee. Instances of misconduct, dishonesty, or violation of the Code of Conduct remain subject to the applicable disciplinary provisions of this Regulation.

Art. 17 – Changes in Team Composition. Teams may modify their composition by replacing up to two (2) members during the competition. Any change in Team composition must follow the same rules set out for registration (Articles 6 and 9). Accordingly, the new members must meet all eligibility requirements established in this Regulation.

The registration of the new member and the substitution process will be managed directly through the Platform. Changes in Team composition must be justified by organizational or contingent factors and cannot be related in any way to the portfolio performance of the outgoing member(s). If the Team Leader leaves the Team, they must designate a new Team Leader through the Platform before their departure.

Removed members lose all titles and entitlements, including any right to awards or prizes.

Art. 18 – Ranking. Two separate rankings—one based on portfolio performance and one based on the FMC Quality Index—will be periodically communicated to participants or made available on the Platform

Art. 19 – Authenticity of Investment Recommendations. All investment recommendations, including investment rationales and the Investment Policy Statement, must reflect the genuine and independent work of the students. Students are therefore prohibited from seeking assistance from consultants or investment professionals to obtain or formulate investment recommendations. For the purposes of this article, the term “investment recommendations” also includes indirect forms in which recommendations—though not explicitly stated—can be inferred or deduced from the context. Failure to comply with this article will result in disqualification.

Art. 20 – Ethical Standards and Compliance with Financial Regulations. Each Team undertakes to apply the CFA Institute Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct (<https://www.cfainstitute.org/-/media/documents/ethics-in->

[practice/code of ethics and standards of professional conduct 2024.pdf](#)) and to comply with all applicable financial regulations. For the interpretation purposes of the CFA Institute Code of Ethics: the students and Team shall be considered as employees; the University and the Professor as the employer, and CFASI and the Organizing Committee as the client.

Art. 21 – Penalties. Teams that fail to comply with the rules of this competition may be subject to penalties determined by the Organizing Committee, based on principles of fairness and proportionality to the seriousness of the violation.

Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

- warnings,
- performance deductions, or
- disqualification.

Art. 22 – Finality of Decisions by the Organizing Committee. All judgments and sanctions issued by the Organizing Committee are final, binding, and not subject to appeal.

Chapter 4: Awards and Award Ceremony

Art. 23 – Award Ceremony. The top three Teams will be notified by email of the date and location of the award ceremony. At least one member of each winning Team must be present at the ceremony. Failure to attend will be considered a forfeiture of the Team's ranking and any associated award.

During the ceremony, winning Teams may be asked to interact with the host and/or the audience.

Travel Reimbursement:

CFA Society Italy will contribute to the travel expenses of the top three Teams for trips exceeding 50 kilometers, up to a maximum of €50 per Team member.

Travel expenses must be directly related to participation in the award ceremony and must be supported by receipts or fiscal invoices. Only expenses supported by original documentation will be reimbursed. Receipts must be fiscally valid, meaning dated and sequentially numbered by the issuer.

All receipts, numbered progressively as listed in the expense report form, together with a single completed expense report, must be sent by email to segreteria@cfaitalia.it no later than July 31, 2026.

The subject line of the email must read: "Ref: FMC 2026 – [Team Name]".

Reimbursements will be made in a single payment per Team by bank transfer to the account specified in the expense report.

Art. 24 – Ties. In the event of a tie, the corresponding award will be divided equally among the Teams.

Art. 25 – Prize. The first-place Team will receive a prize of €500 per Team member, granted as a contribution toward the CFA Program exam registration fee.

CFASI will make the payment upon receipt of documentation confirming successful registration for the exam.

The right to receive the CFA exam registration contribution expires on June 30 of the year following the conclusion of the competition. This deadline is indicative and may be extended by mutual agreement within the limits established by CFASI. In any case, the deadline cannot be extended beyond December 31, 2027 (final deadline).

Chapter 5: Communications and Feedback

Art. 26 – Publication of Information. CFA Society Italy reserves the right to publish, in whole or in part, the information submitted by participating Teams, including images or photographs of participants, portfolio compositions, and any other information related to the competition, on its official website and/or to disseminate such information to the press and other media outlets. Such information may be accompanied by the Team name, the name of the participating university, and the names of the student participants. In all cases, the disclosure of students' investment choices is intended solely for informational purposes and shall not constitute or represent a public solicitation to invest.

Art. 27 – Communications with FactSet. Throughout the competition, participants are expected to facilitate and cooperate with all FactSet-related activities and communications, recognizing that such services are provided free of charge. All communications with FactSet must be clear and concise, in line with the principles outlined in Article 7. If a FAQ guide has been distributed, participants are required to consult it before contacting FactSet.

Art. 28 – Feedback. In order to improve the competition, a feedback form will be distributed to all participants in the weeks preceding the conclusion of the event. All participants are required to complete and submit the feedback form to CFASI before the end of the competition. Submission of the feedback form is mandatory for all students.

Chapter 6: Miscellaneous Provisions

Art. 29 – Calculation of Portfolio Performance. Participants accept the accuracy and validity of the calculation algorithms, the market prices used, and all other aspects related to portfolio performance calculation. Under no circumstances will post-event corrections to the investment recommendations submitted by participants be permitted.

Art. 30 – Materials and Other Information. All documents submitted before, during, and after the competition, as well as the logo, name, algorithms, software, and other technologies developed for this competition (for example, the FMC Quality Index or the evaluation system), are the property of CFA Society Italy and/or their respective authors and are protected by copyright and related intellectual property laws.

Participants and any other entities granted access to such information acknowledge that CFA Society Italy and/or the respective authors hold all related rights and undertake to comply with

all applicable laws and regulations. This provision remains valid even after the conclusion of the competition.

Other information, such as dates and access details for videoconferences, telephone numbers, and access codes for Skype, LinkedIn, FactSet, or any other digital tools used in the competition, shall also be treated as strictly confidential.

Participants are responsible for any failure to comply with this article, both during and after the competition. Violations may result in disqualification.

Art. 31 – Third-Party Content and Additional Services. During the competition, CFA Society Italy (CFASI) may authorize Partners or Third Parties to distribute content or provide additional services, provided such materials are relevant to the competition and consistent with its objectives. However, CFASI assumes no responsibility for the quality, accuracy, continuity, or content of any materials or services provided by third parties.

Art. 32 – Processing of Personal Data. For information regarding the processing of personal data, please refer to the Privacy Policy available during registration and published at the following links:
https://www.cfasi.it/Downloads/PrivacyPolicy_202301_Members_Followers%20and%20Attendees.pdf and https://www.cfasi.it/Downloads/PrivacyPolicy_202301_Images.pdf.

Art. 33 – Amendments to the Rules. CFA Society Italy (CFASI) reserves the right to amend these Rules - in whole or in part - at any time. Should amendments become necessary, participants will be duly informed of any such changes.

Art. 34 – Force Majeure and Technical Malfunctions. In the event of extraordinary circumstances or technical malfunctions that compromise the proper functioning of the competition, CFA Society Italy (CFASI) shall not be held liable for any resulting consequences. Nevertheless, CFASI will make every effort to treat all participants fairly and to restore systems and services as quickly as possible to ensure the continuity of the competition in line with the established schedule.

Art. 35 – Volunteer Contribution, Suspension/Cancellation of the Competition, and Additional Content or Services. The competition is organized and coordinated by CFA Society Italy (CFASI) with the valuable contribution of its volunteers. CFASI is committed to maintaining continuity and professionalism throughout the competition; however, under extraordinary circumstances, the competition's structure or content may be modified.

CFASI reserves the right to shorten, extend, suspend, or cancel the competition at any time, should circumstances arise that make it impossible to continue the initiative in accordance with this Regulation. Any such decision will be promptly communicated to participants through appropriate channels.