

# INVESTMENT GRADE BOND FUND

## Money Manager and Russell Investments Overview



July 2019

### Russell Investments' approach

Russell Investments uses a multi-asset approach to investing, combining asset allocation, manager selection and dynamic portfolio management in its investment portfolios. Using this approach as a framework for mutual fund construction, we research, monitor, hire and terminate (subject to Fund Board approval) money managers from around the world and strategically allocate fund assets to them. We oversee all investment advisory services to the funds and manage assets not allocated to money managers.

### The Fund

The Investment Grade Bond Fund primarily invests in longer term, high-quality investment grade bonds, most of which are U.S. bonds with tactical exposures to non-U.S. securities as needed. The Fund provides access to some of the largest and most experienced bond managers. The money managers in the Fund may evaluate investment opportunities based on a macro-economic framework (top-down) or a security specific framework (bottom-up). They may use sector rotation, issue selection and modest interest rate anticipation strategies designed to help enhance return. In addition, Russell Investments uses internal strategies to control overall credit exposure, currency and interest rate risk. The strategies are designed to provide additional diversification and alternative sources of return

As a result of this diversity of strategies and processes, the Fund typically holds a broad range of securities, including mortgage related securities (such as mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations), U.S. Government and agency securities, and investment grade credit. The Fund's benchmark is the Barclay's U.S. Aggregate Bond Index.

### Money manager skill set (as of July 2019) See skill set definitions on page 6

The table below provides an overview of the primary focus the money managers take in this Fund. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list of the managers' capabilities.

MANAGER	Interest rate timing (duration / yield)	Mortgage-backed securities	Corporate bonds	Government bonds	Currency
MIM <sup>1</sup>			•		
Schroder		•			
RIM	•		•	•	•

<sup>1</sup>Logan Circle Partners, L.P. was renamed MetLife Investment Management, LLC effective July 2019.

### Russell Investments portfolio manager

Keith Brakebill is a Senior Portfolio Manager on the global fixed income team. Keith is responsible for managing a variety of fixed income funds for North American investors including U.S. corporate and municipal bonds, global high yield, and emerging market debt. Prior to this role, Keith was an analyst on Russell Investments' global fixed income research team. Keith holds a BA in college scholars with a concentration in international economic policy and foreign language acquisition and an MA in international policy studies. Keith joined Russell Investments in 2007.

### The portfolio managers' role

The Russell Investments portfolio managers are responsible for identifying and selecting the strategies and money managers included in the Fund and determining the weight for each assignment. The portfolio managers manage the Fund on a daily basis to help keep it on track, constantly monitoring risk and return expectations at the total fund level and making changes when deemed appropriate and/or necessary. Multiple resources from across the firm are used to help determine what is believed to be the best combination of managers and strategies. Manager research and capital markets research are just some of the tools at the portfolio managers' disposal to help identify opportunities and manage risk.

### Target allocation of fund assets

The percentages below represent the target allocation of the Fund's assets to each money manager's strategy and Russell Investment Management, LLC's ("RIM") strategy. This does not include liquidity reserves managed directly by RIM, which may constitute 5% or more of fund assets at any given time.

FIRM NAME	TARGET ALLOCATION
MetLife Investment Management, LLC <sup>1</sup>	22%
Schroder Investment Management North America, Inc.	35%
Russell Investment Management, LLC (RIM)*	43%

\* RIM manages this portion of the Fund's assets to effect the Fund's investment strategies and/or to actively manage the Fund's overall exposures to seek to achieve the desired risk/return profile for the Fund. Positioning strategies are used to seek excess return and manage portfolio risks by targeting specific exposures. These strategies are used in conjunction with allocations to third-party managers to fully reflect Russell Investments' strategic and dynamic views with integrated liquidity and risk management.

Not FDIC Insured - May Lose Value - No Bank Guarantee

# Investment Grade Bond Fund

## Managers and Strategies Summary

July 2019

NAME	ALLOCATION	INVESTMENT FOCUS	ROLE	DETAILS OF ROLE IN THE FUND
 <b>MetLife</b> Investment Management	22%	Focuses on bottom-up security selection, rotating between different industries as relative value is found.	Specialist	As a corporate bond specialist, MIM (formerly Logan Circle) brings to the Fund a bottom-up, issuer specific evaluation approach that seeks to find value in out-of-favor sectors and securities.
<b>Schroders</b>	35%	Emphasizes security selection across securitized credit sectors with a particular specialty in residential housing.	Specialist	Schroder plays the role of securitized credit specialist in the Fund seeking to add value through security and sub-sector selection.
Russell Investment Management, LLC	43%	The active positioning strategy in this Fund allows the Russell Investments Portfolio Manager to express views across multiple factors and risk exposures simultaneously while regularly adapting to changing markets and manager allocations. The strategy is used to target desired total portfolio positioning and can be adjusted as needed by the Portfolio Manager.	Positioning strategies	RIM oversees all investment advisory services to the Fund and manages assets not allocated to money managers. This includes the Fund's positioning strategies, which help the Fund to achieve its desired risk/return profile. RIM also manages the Fund's liquidity reserves, which may constitute 5% or more of Fund assets at any given time (not included in the percentage cited on the left).

# MetLife Investment Management, LLC\*

## Firm background

Logan Circle was acquired by MetLife, Inc. ("MetLife") in September 2017. On July 1, 2019, after a corporate restructuring, the name of the MetLife entity providing advisory services to the Fund was changed to MetLife Investment Management, LLC ("MIM"). MIM offers actively managed investment solutions across a broad spectrum of fixed income strategies that can be customized to meet clients' specific and unique objectives.

**Headquarters:** Whippany, NJ

**Founded:** 2007 (Logan Circle Partners, L.P.) / 1868 (MetLife, Inc.)

**Lead manager:** Andrew Kronschnabel, CFA




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**Asset class:** Fixed income

**Investment focus:** Corporate bonds

**Number of holdings:** 400-700

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\*Logan Circle Partners, L.P. was renamed MetLife Investment Management, LLC effective July 2019.

## Manager profile

The investment team at MIM providing services to the Fund is the same team that was at Logan Circle. This investment team has been responsible for managing assets of the Investment Grade Bond Fund since 2002 (either at Logan Circle or with prior firms).

## What this manager brings to the Fund

As a corporate bond specialist, MIM brings to the Fund a bottom-up, issuer specific evaluation approach that seeks to find value in out-of-favor sectors and securities.

## Investment process

MIM believes the fixed income markets are efficient with respect to interest rate risk, but regularly mis-price securities that are exposed to credit, prepayment and liquidity risks. To benefit from these inefficiencies and potentially provide investors with an opportunity for excess returns, MIM focuses on optimal security selection, emphasizes spread sectors, targets duration neutral portfolios and seeks to construct portfolios with attractive risk/reward characteristics.

This manager tends to focus its risk on investment grade credit and, to a lesser extent, high quality securitized credit. Interest rate and yield curve management investments tend to align with the Fund's benchmark. While derivative usage and global investment receive less emphasis in its process, those strategies are employed as well, particularly in global corporate markets.

## Russell Investments' manager analysis

This small, nimble manager employs a decision-making structure that Russell Investments believes allows it to add value via security selection.

Russell Investments expects this manager will do well when idiosyncratic risk is rewarded, while weaker performance should be expected of this manager when macro-economic themes drive market performance. Given the aggressiveness of this manager, it will also likely underperform when risk is not rewarded.

# Schroder Investment Management North America, Inc.

## Firm background

Schroder Investment Management North America, Inc. manages assets on behalf of institutional and retail investors, financial institutions and high net worth clients from around the world, invested in a broad range of asset classes across equities, fixed income, multi-asset and alternatives.

**Headquarters:** New York, NY

**Founded:** 1979

**Lead manager:** Michelle Russell-Dowe

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**Asset class:** Fixed income

**Investment focus:** Mortgage-backed securities

**Number of holdings:** 75-150

## Manager profile

Schroder Investment Management North America, Inc. (Schroder) was added to the Strategic Bond Fund in 2016, when Brookfield Investment Management Inc.'s securities product team was purchased by Schroder. The strategy is led by Michelle Russell-Dowe, and a deep team of senior investment professionals and investment specialists across different sectors for credit analysis and modeling.

## What this manager brings to the Fund

Schroders plays the role of a securitized credit specialist in the Fund, seeking to add value through security and sub-sector selection. Schroders will use Treasury futures to manage duration positioning of their portfolio around the benchmark.

## Investment process

Schroders' process tends to be credit intensive, rather than technical in nature. Schroders specializes in structured products (asset-backed securities and mortgage-backed securities) with an investment philosophy that is predicated on relative value. The firm believes that with experienced investment professionals, a comprehensive analytical platform and a dedicated investment process that emphasizes security selection, it can successfully identify and capture relative value opportunities.

Schroders' investment approach begins with the identification of fundamental and technical factors that are responsible for performance in each asset class or sub-sector. Once areas of opportunity are identified, the firm performs an in-depth security analysis to build portfolios. Investments will be made across the credit spectrum with an emphasis on securities that it believes present high yields and total return opportunities.

## Russell Investments' manager analysis

Russell Investments believes that Schroders is one of the most compelling securitized sector specialists and that Russell-Dowe is one of the most knowledgeable investors on the mortgage market with an excellent analytical system for evaluating structured securities, particularly mortgage-backed securities.

Russell Investments believes that Schroders' modest asset base should allow them the flexibility to be nimble in the securitized sector, taking on and off exposures without impacting markets.

Schroders will typically perform well when securitized credit performs well and vice versa. These are typically risk on environments.

# Russell Investment Management, LLC

## Firm background

Russell Investment Management, LLC (RIM) is the advisor to Russell Investment Company (RIC) Funds. Russell Investments' ownership is composed of a majority stake held by funds managed by TA Associates with minority stakes held by funds managed by Reverence Capital Partners and Russell Investments' management. Russell Investments provides asset management and investment services to institutional and individual investors around the world.

**Headquarters:** Seattle, WA

**Founded:** Russell Investments, founded in 1936

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**Asset class:** Fixed income

**Investment focus:** Credit, currency and interest rate factors

**Number of holdings:** 60-100

RIM oversees all investment advisory services to the Fund and manages assets not allocated to managers.

## Manager and strategy oversight

Russell Investments portfolio managers have ultimate responsibility for ensuring fund outcomes are consistent with fund objectives. The portfolio manager and analysts track the effectiveness of every money manager and strategy in the Fund. Occasionally, adjustments may be necessary due to reasons such as a change in control at a money manager, the opportunity to select another manager or strategy the portfolio manager believes offers an investment proposition that would help improve the Fund, or changes in market dynamics.

Any significant Fund changes must be validated through an internal governance process to ensure all key considerations were addressed by the portfolio manager. Money manager changes are also subject to approval by the Fund's Board of Trustees.

## Investment management

RIM manages a portion of the Fund's assets internally to seek to precisely manage the Fund's exposures and achieve the desired risk/return profile for the Fund. During the portfolio construction and management process, portfolio managers may identify an investment need and seek to address that need with a positioning strategy.

Positioning strategies are customized portfolios directly managed by RIM for use within the total portfolio. Portfolio managers use positioning strategies, including tactical tilts, to seek excess return and manage portfolio risks by targeting specific exposures. These strategies are used in conjunction with allocations to third-party active managers to fully reflect Russell Investments' strategic and dynamic insights with integrated liquidity and risk management.

RIM employs multiple positioning strategies to achieve the desired return and risk objectives at the total fund level. RIM manages government bonds within the Fund as its belief that active managers do not produce significant security selection alpha in this sector versus spread sectors. This allows the other managers in the Fund to have concentrated sector specific mandates. Government bonds will typically compose most of the physical assets that are internally managed. The Fund seeks to tilt across a variety of dimensions including credit, currency and interest rate factors. Positioning strategies may change at any time as market conditions and needs of the Fund change.

## Managing the liquidity reserve

Every Russell Investment Company mutual fund maintains cash reserves, which is cash awaiting investment or held to meet redemption requests or to pay expenses. This Fund typically exposes all or a portion of its cash to changes in interest rates or market/sector returns by purchasing fixed income securities and/or derivatives (also known as "equitization"), which typically include exchange traded fixed income futures contracts and swaps. The Fund invests any remaining cash in an unregistered cash management fund advised by RIM and/or fixed income securities with an average portfolio duration of one year and individual effective maturities of up to five years.

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**Fund objectives, risks, charges and expenses should be carefully considered before investing. A summary prospectus, if available, or a prospectus containing this and other important information can be obtained by calling 800-787-7354 or by visiting [russellinvestments.com](http://russellinvestments.com). Please read a prospectus carefully before investing.**

**Manager skill sets definitions:**

Interest rate timing (duration/yield) – Interest rate timing anticipates the magnitude and direction of interest rates in both the U.S. and/or internationally.

Mortgage-backed securities – Mortgage-backed securities are bonds backed by a pool of mortgages. Investors receive payments out of the interest and principal of the underlying mortgages.

Corporate Bonds – Corporate bonds are debt obligations issued by a corporation.

Government Bonds – Government bonds are debt securities issued by a government to support government spending.

Currency – Currency involves investing in foreign currencies with an expectation that the value of the currency will either rise or fall vs. the U.S. dollar.

Money managers listed are current as of July 1, 2019. Subject to the Fund's Board approval, Russell Investments has the right to engage or terminate a money manager at any time and without a shareholder vote, based on an exemptive order from the Securities and Exchange Commission. Investments in the Funds are not deposits with or other liabilities of any of the money managers and are subject to investment risk, including loss of income and principal invested and possible delays in payment of redemption proceeds. The money managers do not guarantee the performance of any Fund or any particular rate of return.

This document will be updated annually. If a manager change is made during a year, a manager specific page will be added or removed.

The investment styles employed by a Fund's money managers may not be complementary. This concentration may be beneficial or detrimental to a Fund's performance depending upon the performance of those securities and the overall economic environment. The multi-manager approach could increase a Fund's portfolio turnover rates which may result in higher levels of realized capital gains or losses with respect to a Fund's portfolio securities, higher brokerage commissions and other transaction costs.

Bond investors should carefully consider risks such as interest rate, credit, default and duration risks. Greater risk, such as increased volatility, limited liquidity, prepayment, non-payment and increased default risk, is inherent in portfolios that invest in high yield ("junk") bonds or mortgage-backed securities, especially mortgage-backed securities with exposure to sub-prime mortgages. Generally, when interest rates rise, prices of fixed income securities fall. Interest rates in the United States are at, or near, historic lows, which may increase a Fund's exposure to risks associated with rising rates.

Investment in non-U.S. and emerging market securities is subject to the risk of currency fluctuations and to economic and political risks associated with such foreign countries.

The Fund may invest in derivatives, including futures, options, forwards and swaps. Investments in derivatives may cause the Fund's losses to be greater than if it invests only in conventional securities and can cause the Fund to be more volatile. Derivatives involve risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with other investments. The Fund's use of derivatives may cause the Fund's investment returns to be impacted by the performance of securities the Fund does not own and result in the Fund's total investment exposure exceeding the value of its portfolio.

Non-U.S. markets and emerging or developing markets entail different risks than those typically associated with U.S. markets, including currency fluctuations, political and economic instability, accounting changes and foreign taxation. Non-U.S. securities may be less liquid and more volatile than the U.S., and emerging markets securities may be less liquid and more volatile than U.S. and longer-established non-U.S. markets.

Use of currency trading strategies may adversely impact a Fund's ability to meet its investment objective of seeking to provide current income.

Please remember that all investments carry some level of risk, including the potential loss of principal invested. They do not typically grow at an even rate of return and may experience negative growth.

As with any type of portfolio structuring, attempting to reduce risk and increase return could, at certain times, unintentionally reduce returns.

Diversification and strategic asset allocation do not assure profit or protect against loss in declining markets.

For more information on Russell Investment Company Funds, contact your investment professional or plan administrator for assistance.

Russell Investments' ownership is composed of a majority stake held by funds managed by TA Associates with minority stakes held by funds managed by Reverence Capital Partners and Russell Investments' management.

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