

# Aberdeen Latin American Equity Fund I Acc

## GB00B4R0SD95



## Analyst Notes

### Standard Life Aberdeen Appoints Keith Skeoch as Sole CEO of the Group

#### Maintain Rating

13 Mar, 2019 | On March 13, 2019, Standard Life Aberdeen announced that Keith Skeoch has been appointed as sole chief executive officer of the group. Previously, there was a joint-CEO structure with Skeoch and Martin Gilbert both fulfilling the role following the merger of Aberdeen Asset Management and Standard Life in August 2017.


Skeoch will focus on leading the business and on improving investment performance whilst overseeing the remaining elements of the Standard Life/Aberdeen Asset Management merger, which has now been largely completed.

Gilbert will fulfil a new role as vice chairman of Standard Life Aberdeen and chairman of Aberdeen Standard Investments, as well as remaining an executive director of the board. He will continue to lead the client-facing aspect of the business on a global basis, and he will focus solely on developing and retaining business through strategic relationships.

This is not surprising news, as joint-CEO structures tend to be rare and utilised for transitional periods. With the merger nearing operational completion, this development should allow for clearer accountability and transparency in what are currently very challenging times for the business and for active money managers more generally.

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**Morningstar Analyst Rating**  
 **Bronze** 13 Mar 2019  
 11:30, UTC-0500

**Morningstar Category**  
Latin America Equity

**Category Index**  
MSCI EM Latin America NR USD

**Total Assets**  
118.53  
Mil GBP

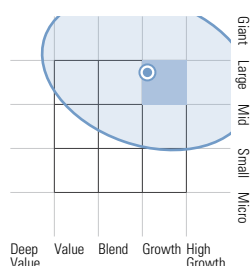
**Current Yield %**  
—

**Inception Date**  
01/10/12

**Domicile/Currency**  
GBR/GBP

**Morningstar Rating**  
★★★★

### Equity Style Map



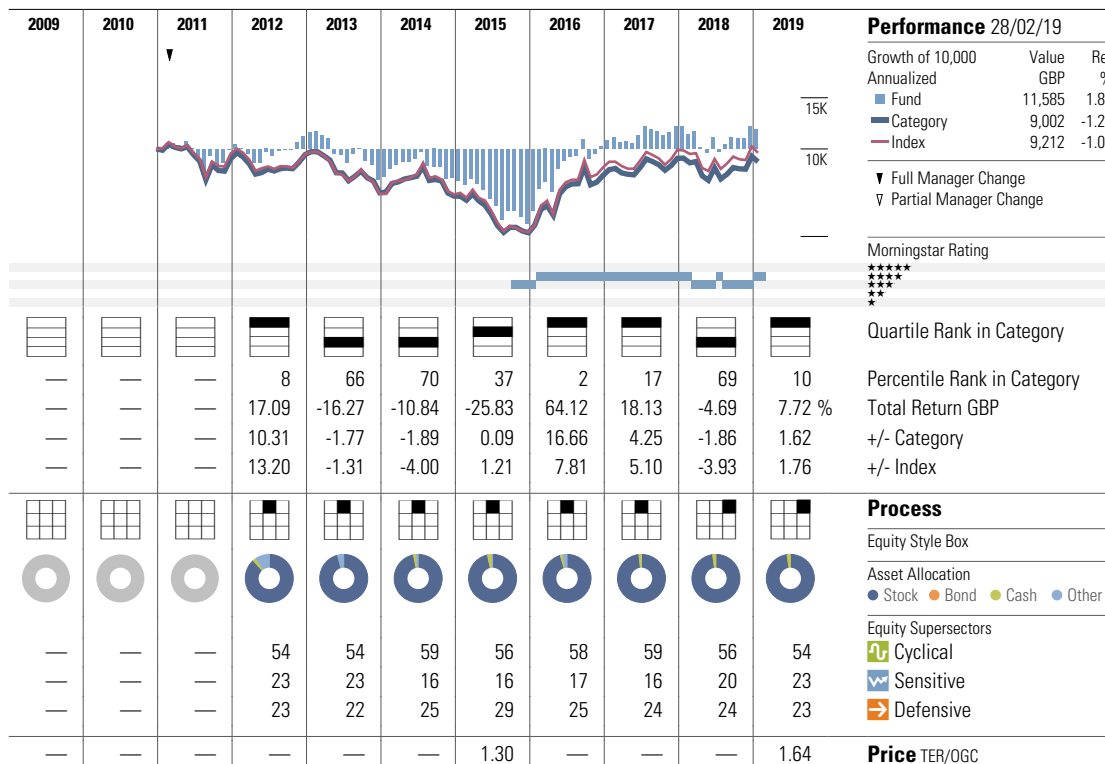
### People

Not Disclosed 02/11

Total Named Managers 1

### Morningstar Pillars

Process	Positive
Performance	Positive
People	Positive
Parent	Neutral
Price	Negative



### Analyst View

Lena Tsymbaluk, Analyst

## There is some uncertainty related to the “focus on change” incorporation into the process.

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Morningstar evaluates mutual funds based on five key pillars, which its analysts believe lead to funds that are more likely to outperform over the long term on a risk-adjusted basis.

Analyst Rating Spectrum

Gold Silver Bronze Neutral Negative

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13 Jun, 2018 | The merger between Aberdeen and Standard Life has resulted in some changes.

One of Aberdeen Latin America Equity's strengths lies in the team approach and the depth of the analytical resource of Aberdeen's 19-strong global emerging-markets team, based in London and Sao Paulo offices and headed by seasoned investor Devan Kaloo. The approach is collegiate, and research is conducted by all the investment managers. Research notes are reviewed by senior team members and discussed during a weekly meeting with the whole global emerging-markets team before deciding on a stock's inclusion.

Following the merger, the team structure has changed such that responsibility is now organised by sector rather than country. Each senior or investment manager will have formal ownership of 20-25 stocks going forward. We are encouraged by this news, as the team has suffered from lack of sector expertise, and we believe that this will foster better accountability and ownership among investment managers.

While the team will retain Aberdeen's long-term quality process, it will integrate the legacy Standard Life's investment philosophy of “focus on change” into the research process. “Focus on change” seeks out underappreciated company-

and industry-level fundamental change that creates opportunities over one to three years. The integration will take the form of a new research note template.

While there is some uncertainty around the integration of “focus on change” into the team's analysis, we believe it could potentially result in better timing in market entry and exit among stock positions. However, we would like to further observe how the integration might potentially affect broader portfolio outcomes/characteristics.

Despite the fact there is some uncertainty surrounding the integration of “focus on change” into Aberdeen's long-term quality process, we retain conviction given the core of the approach, the depth of resources, and strong track record. The fund retains its Morningstar Analyst Rating of Bronze.

# Morningstar Global Fund Report

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### Morningstar Analyst Rating

	2017	2018	2019
 Gold			
 Silver			
 Bronze			
Neutral			
Negative			
Under Review			
Not Ratable			

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The date shown next to the Morningstar Analyst Rating is the date on which Morningstar Manager Research Analyst assigned or reaffirmed the current rating for the fund based on the analyst's latest review and research report for the fund.

### The Five (5) Pillars

Morningstar has identified five key areas that we believe are crucial to predicting the future success of funds: People, Parent, Process, Performance, and Price. Each pillar is evaluated when assessing a fund as well as the interaction between the pillars, which we believe is crucial to understanding a fund's overall merit.

#### People

The overall quality of a fund's investment team is a significant key to its ability to deliver superior performance relative to its benchmark and/or peers. Evaluating a fund's investment team requires that analysts assess several relevant items including how key decisions are made.

#### Parent

We believe the parent organization is of utmost importance in evaluating funds. The fund's management set the tone for key elements of our evaluation, including capacity management, risk management, recruitment and retention of talent, and incentive pay. Beyond these operational areas, we prefer firms that have a culture of stewardship and put investors first to those that are too heavily weighted to salesmanship.

#### Process

We look for funds with a performance objective and investment process (for both security selection and portfolio construction) that is sensible, clearly defined, and repeatable. In addition, the portfolio should be constructed in a manner that is consistent with the investment process and performance objective.

#### Performance

We do not believe past performance is necessarily predictive of future results, and this factor accordingly receives a relatively small weighting in our evaluation process. In particular, we strive not to anchor on short-term performance. However, we do believe that the evaluation of long-term return and risk patterns is vital to determining if a fund is delivering to our expectations.

#### Price

To reflect actual investor experience, price is evaluated within the context of the relevant market or cross-border region—for example, the United States, Australia, Canada, or Europe. In recognition of differences in scale and distribution costs in various markets, the level at which a fund is penalised for high fees or rewarded for low fees can vary with region. In Europe, for example, funds are penalised if they land in the most expensive quintile of their Morningstar category and are rewarded if they land in the cheapest quintile. The assessment is made using annual expense ratios, but in the case of funds with performance fees, expenses are evaluated excluding any performance fees and then the structure of the performance fee is evaluated separately.

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Morningstar Analyst Ratings are assigned on a five-tier scale running from Gold to Negative. The top three ratings, Gold, Silver, and Bronze, all indicate that our analysts think highly of a fund; the difference between them corresponds to differences in the level of analyst conviction in a fund's ability to outperform its benchmark and peers through time, within the context of the level of risk taken.

**Gold**

Represents funds that our analyst has the highest-conviction in for that given investment mandate. By giving a fund a Gold rating, we are expressing an expectation that it will outperform its relevant performance benchmark and/or peer group within the context of the level of risk taken over the long term (defined as a full market cycle or at least five years). To earn a Gold rating, a fund must distinguish itself across the five pillars that are the basis for our analysis.

**Silver**

Represents funds our analyst has high-conviction in, but not in all of the five pillars. With those fundamental strengths, we expect these funds will outperform their relevant performance benchmark and/or peer group within the context of the level of risk taken over the long term (defined as a full market cycle or at least five years).

**Bronze**

Represents funds that have advantages that clearly outweigh any disadvantages across the pillars, giving analyst the conviction to award them a positive rating. We expect these funds to beat their relevant performance benchmark and/or peer group within the context of the level of risk taken over a full market cycle (or at least five years).

**Neutral**

Represents funds in which our analysts don't have a strong positive or negative conviction. In our judgment, these funds are not likely to deliver standout returns, but they aren't likely to seriously underperform their relevant performance benchmark and/or peer group either.

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