

# University of Sydney Students Triumph as CFA Institute Research Challenge 2020 Global Champions

*Historically an entirely in-person event, students pivot to finish the demanding competition online*

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**Sydney, Australia, 23 April 2020**

A team of hopeful future investment management professionals from the University of Sydney secured the Global Champion title in the 14th Annual CFA Institute Research Challenge. Last night's competition, as well as all three regional finals, were held online for the first time due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The CFA Institute Research Challenge is an annual competition that invites university students, competing in teams of 3-5, to conduct an in-depth analysis of a listed company. In total, more than 6000 students from 1150 universities around the world participated in the competition this year. The students were tested on their analytical, valuation, research, reporting, and presentation skills, and gained real-world experience as they assumed the role of research analysts.

"Congratulations to the Global Championships from University of Sydney, the Regional Champions, and the thousands of participants and volunteers who each poured hundreds of hours into the CFA Institute Research Challenge, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 Crisis," said Ganesh Suntharam, CFA, President of CFA Society Sydney. "This competition is a real proving ground; this year's students faced the added challenge of analysing companies in an environment where even seasoned professionals are unsure of what lies ahead."

"Despite the current environment, these students stepped up to the challenge and showed a deep sense of professionalism, analytical skill, and insight that will serve them throughout their lives and careers," added Suntharam.

The winning team from University of Sydney includes Jeffrey Brown, Sahil Arora, Jassis Chen, Jessica Wu and Tom Luo. They were supported in their efforts by their faculty adviser, Angelo Aspris; industry mentor Michael Toh; and CFA Society Sydney. The team presented and defended their analysis of Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) to a panel of global judges drawn from the investment industry, including:

- Joelle Harb, CFA - Senior Investment Manager, OCTO Asset Management (France)
- Mifnaz Jawahar, CFA - Chief Research Officer, UZABASE Inc., (Sri Lanka)
- Jaime Lázaro Ruiz, CFA - Director of Asset Management, BBVA Bancomer (Mexico)

- Stephanie Greiner, CFA - Portfolio Management and Analytics, Senior consultant Manager, Refinitiv (USA)

In addition to the winning team, the four other regional finalists included:

Americas Region: Seton Hall University and Universidade de Sao Paulo

Europe, Middle East and Africa Region: BI Norwegian Business School and University of Lausanne

### **CFA Societies Australia**

CFA Societies Australia is part of the worldwide network of CFA Institute member societies that lead the investment profession globally by promoting the highest standards of ethics, education and professional excellence for the ultimate benefit of society.

CFA Societies Australia represents the interests of over 3000 investment professionals through advocacy, education, events, and professional development.

CFA Institute, the global association of investment professionals, sets the standard for professional excellence and credentials and is a champion of ethical behavior in investment markets and a respected source of knowledge in the global financial community.

There are more than 170,000 CFA charterholders worldwide in 162 markets.

For more information visit [www.cfas.org.au](http://www.cfas.org.au), or follow us on Twitter at @CFASocietiesAus, Facebook at [facebook.com/CFASocietiesAus](https://www.facebook.com/CFASocietiesAus) or LinkedIn at CFA Societies Australia.

### **CFA Institute Research Challenge**

Over the past decade, the CFA Institute Research Challenge has grown from just 91 participants in 2006 to more than 6000 this year. The global winners from the past three years came from Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines in 2019; the University of Lausanne – Switzerland in 2018; Barna Management School – Dominican Republic in 2017.

<http://www.cfainstitute.org/researchchallenge>.

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