

# NORTHERN FUNDS

## International Equity Fund



Summary Prospectus | July 31, 2018

Ticker: NOIGX

Before you invest, you may want to review the Fund's complete Prospectus, which contains more information about the Fund and its risks. You can find the Fund's complete Prospectus and other information about the Fund online at [northerntrust.com/prospectus](http://northerntrust.com/prospectus). You can also get this information at no cost by calling 800-595-9111 or by sending an e-mail request to [northern-funds@ntrs.com](mailto:northern-funds@ntrs.com). If you purchase shares of the Fund through a financial intermediary (such as a bank or a broker-dealer), the complete Prospectus and other information are also available from your financial intermediary. The Fund's complete Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information, both dated July 31, 2018, as supplemented, are incorporated by reference into this summary prospectus and may be obtained, free of charge, at the website, phone number or e-mail address noted above.

### INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The Fund seeks to provide long-term capital appreciation. Any income received is incidental to this objective.

### FEES AND EXPENSES OF THE FUND

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund.

#### Shareholder Fees (fees paid directly from your investment)

Maximum Sales Charge (Load) Imposed on Purchases (as a percentage of offering price)	None
Redemption Fee (within 30 days of purchase) (as a percentage of amount redeemed, if applicable)	2.00%

#### Annual Fund Operating Expenses (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)<sup>(1)</sup>

Management Fees	0.48%
Other Expenses	0.19%
Transfer Agent Fees	0.02%
Other Operating Expenses	0.17%
<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses</b>	<b>0.67%</b>
Expense Reimbursement <sup>(2)</sup>	(0.16)%
<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement</b>	<b>0.51%</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> The expense information has been restated to reflect current fees.

<sup>(2)</sup> Northern Trust Investments, Inc. has contractually agreed to reimburse a portion of the operating expenses of the Fund (other than certain excepted expenses, i.e., Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, the compensation paid to each Independent Trustee of the Trust, expenses of third party consultants engaged by the Board of Trustees, membership dues paid to the Investment Company Institute and Mutual Fund Directors Forum, expenses in connection with the negotiation and renewal of the revolving credit facility, extraordinary expenses and interest) to the extent the "Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses" exceed 0.50%. The "Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement" may be higher than the contractual limitation as a result of the excepted expenses that are not reimbursed. This contractual limitation may not be terminated before July 31, 2019 without the approval of the Board of Trustees.

### EXAMPLE

The following Example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other

mutual funds. The Example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then redeem all of your shares at the end of those periods. The Example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund's operating expenses remain the same. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
\$52	\$198	\$357	\$819

**PORTFOLIO TURNOVER.** The Fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or "turns over" its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs and may result in higher taxes when Fund shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual portfolio operating expenses or in the Example, affect the Fund's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 101.53% of the average value of its portfolio.

### PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

In seeking long-term capital appreciation, the Fund will invest, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of its net assets in equity securities. The Fund intends to invest in the securities of companies located in a number of countries throughout the world. These companies generally have market capitalizations in excess of \$1 billion.

The Fund's investment strategy attempts to create a portfolio with similar risk, style, capitalization and industry characteristics as the MSCI World<sup>®</sup> ex USA Index with the potential to provide excess returns by allowing the Fund to hold a portion, but not all of the securities in the MSCI World ex USA Index. In managing the Fund, the Fund's investment adviser attempts to achieve the Fund's objective by overweighting those stocks that it believes will outperform the MSCI World ex USA Index and underweighting (or excluding entirely) those stocks that it believes will underperform the MSCI World ex USA Index. The Fund seeks to accomplish this goal by employing a strategy that uses statistics and advanced econometric methods to determine which fundamental and quantifiable stock or firm characteristics (such as relative valuation, price momentum and earnings quality) are

predictive of future stock performance. The characteristics are combined to create a proprietary multifactor quantitative stock selection model which generates stock specific forecasts that are used along with risk controls to determine security weightings. The investment management team's approach, based primarily on applying quantitative methods to fundamental research (e.g., selecting stocks based on economic, financial, and market analysis), is applied within a risk constrained environment that is intended to increase return and result in a portfolio having characteristics similar to the MSCI World ex USA Index. The team will normally sell a security that it believes is no longer attractive based upon the evaluation criteria described above.

The Fund's investment adviser may engage in active trading, and will not consider portfolio turnover a limiting factor in making decisions for the Fund.

Although the Fund primarily invests in mature markets (such as Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom), it may also invest to a lesser extent in emerging markets (such as Brazil and China). The Fund, from time to time, may emphasize particular companies or market segments in attempting to achieve its investment objective.

*MSCI Inc. does not endorse any of the securities in the MSCI World ex USA Index. It is not a sponsor of the International Equity Fund and is not affiliated with the Fund in any way.*

## PRINCIPAL RISKS

**CURRENCY RISK** is the risk that foreign securities that trade in or receive revenues in foreign currencies, or derivatives that provide exposure to foreign currencies will fluctuate in value relative to the U.S. dollar, adversely affecting the value of the Fund's investments and its returns. Because the Fund's net asset value is determined on the basis of U.S. dollars, you may lose money if the local currency of a foreign market depreciates against the U.S. dollar, even if the market value of the Fund's holdings appreciates. In addition, fluctuations in the exchange values of currencies could affect the economy or particular business operations of companies in a geographic region in which the Fund invests, causing an adverse impact on the Fund's investments in the affected region.

**CYBERSECURITY RISK** is the risk of an unauthorized breach and access to fund assets, customer data (including private shareholder information), or proprietary information, or the risk of an incident occurring that causes the Fund, the investment adviser, custodian, transfer agent, distributor and other service providers and financial intermediaries to suffer data breaches, data corruption or lose operational functionality. Successful cyber-attacks or other cyber-failures or events affecting the Fund or its service providers may adversely impact the Fund or its shareholders.

**EMERGING MARKETS RISK** is the risk that markets of emerging market countries are less developed and less liquid, subject to greater price volatility and generally subject to increased economic, political, regulatory and other uncertainties than more developed markets.

**FINANCIAL SECTOR RISK** is the risk that the Fund will be impacted by events affecting the financial sector if it invests a relatively large percentage of its assets in that sector, adversely affecting the Fund's performance. The financial sector can be significantly affected by changes in interest rates, government regulation, the rate of corporate and consumer debt defaulted, price competition, and the availability and cost of capital.

**FOREIGN SECURITIES RISK** is the risk that investing in foreign (non-U.S.) securities may result in the Fund experiencing more rapid and extreme changes in value than a fund that invests exclusively in securities of U.S. companies, due to less liquid markets and adverse economic, political, diplomatic, financial, and regulatory factors. Foreign governments also may impose limits on investment and repatriation and impose taxes. Any of these events could cause the value of the Fund's investments to decline. To the extent that the Fund's assets are concentrated in a single country or geographic region, the Fund will be subject to the risks associated with that particular country or region.

**GEOGRAPHIC AND SECTOR RISK** is the risk that if the Fund invests a significant portion of its total assets in certain issuers within the same geographic region or economic sector, an adverse economic, business or political development affecting that region or sector may affect the value of the Fund's investments more than if the Fund's investments were not so concentrated.

**INVESTMENT STYLE RISK** is the risk that different investment styles (e.g., "growth", "value" or "quantitative") tend to shift in and out of favor, depending on market and economic conditions as well as investor sentiment. The Fund may outperform or underperform other funds that employ a different investment style. The Fund may also employ a combination of styles that impacts its risk characteristics.

**LARGE CAP STOCK RISK** is the risk that large-capitalization stocks as a group could fall out of favor with the market, causing the fund to underperform investments that focus solely on small- or medium-capitalization stocks.

**MANAGEMENT RISK** is the risk that a strategy used by the Fund's investment adviser may fail to produce the intended results or that imperfections, errors or limitations in the tools and data used by the investment adviser may cause unintended results.

**MARKET RISK** is the risk that general market conditions, such as real or perceived adverse economic or political conditions, inflation, changes in interest rates, lack of liquidity in the bond or equity markets, volatility in the equities market or adverse investor sentiment could cause the value of your investment in the Fund to decline. It includes the risk that a particular style of investing, such as growth or value, may underperform the market generally. The market value of the securities in which the Fund invests may go up or down in response to the prospects of particular sectors or governments and/or general economic conditions throughout the world due to increasingly interconnected global economies and financial markets.

**MID CAP STOCK RISK** is the risk that stocks of mid-sized companies may be subject to more abrupt or erratic market movements than stocks of larger, more established companies. Mid-sized companies may have limited product lines or financial resources, and may be dependent upon a particular niche of the market.

**PORTFOLIO TURNOVER RISK** is the risk that a high portfolio turnover rate (100% or more) is likely to involve higher brokerage commissions and other transaction costs, which could reduce the Fund's return. It also may result in higher short-term capital gains that are taxable to shareholders. For the last fiscal year, the annual portfolio turnover rate of the Fund exceeded 100%.

**QUANTITATIVE INVESTING RISK** is the risk that the value of securities or other investments selected using quantitative analysis can perform differently from the market as a whole or from their expected performance. This may be as a result of the factors used in building the multifactor quantitative model, the weights placed on each factor, the accuracy of historical data supplied by third parties, and changing sources of market returns.

**SMALL CAP STOCK RISK** is the risk that stocks of smaller companies may be subject to more abrupt or erratic market movements than stocks of larger, more established companies. Small companies may have limited product lines or financial resources, or may be dependent upon a small or inexperienced management group, and their securities may trade less frequently and in lower volume than the securities of larger companies, which could lead to higher transaction costs. Generally, the smaller the company size, the greater the risk.

**VALUATION RISK** is the risk that the sale price the Fund could receive for a portfolio security may differ from the Fund's valuation of the security, particularly for securities that trade in low volume or volatile markets or that are valued using a fair value methodology. In addition, the value of the securities in the Fund's portfolio may change on days when shareholders will not be able to purchase or sell the Fund's shares.

As with any mutual fund, it is possible to lose money on an investment in the Fund. An investment in the Fund is not a deposit of any bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, any other government agency, or The Northern Trust Company, its affiliates, subsidiaries or any other bank.

## FUND PERFORMANCE

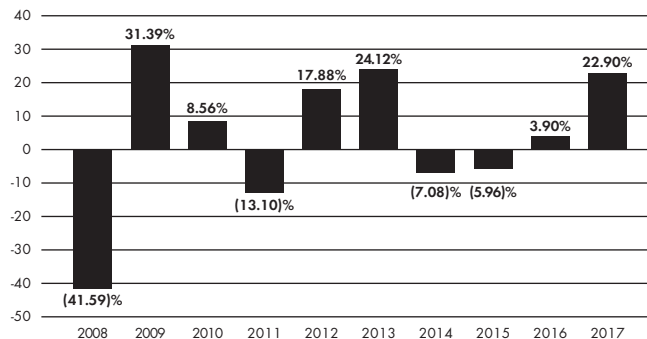
The bar chart and table that follow provide an indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing (A) changes in the performance of the Fund from year to year, and (B) how the average annual total returns of the Fund compare to those of a broad-based securities market index.

On January 1, 2017, the Fund changed its principal investment strategy from a fundamental actively managed strategy to a quantitative actively managed strategy. The performance shown prior to that date represents performance of the Fund's prior fundamental actively managed strategy.

The Fund's past performance, before and after taxes, is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future.

Updated performance information for the Fund is available and may be obtained on the Fund's website at [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds) or by calling 800-595-9111.

### CALENDAR YEAR TOTAL RETURN\*



\* Year to date total return for the six months ended June 30, 2018 is (3.80)%. For the periods shown in the bar chart above, the highest quarterly return was 23.54% in the second quarter of 2009, and the lowest quarterly return was (22.51)% in the third quarter of 2011.

### AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURN

(For the periods ended December 31, 2017)

	Inception Date	1-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception
International Equity Fund	4/1/94				
Returns before taxes		22.90%	6.73%	1.68%	4.98%
Returns after taxes on distributions		22.54%	6.35%	1.21%	3.84%
Returns after taxes on distributions and sale of Fund shares		13.25%	5.36%	1.34%	3.81%
MSCI World ex USA Index (reflects no deduction or fees, expenses or taxes)		24.21%	7.46%	1.87%	5.55%
MSCI EAFE Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)*		25.03%	7.90%	1.94%	5.39%

After-tax returns are calculated using the historical highest individual federal marginal income tax rates and do not reflect the impact of state and local taxes. Actual after-tax returns depend on an investor's tax situation and may differ from those shown. After-tax returns shown are not relevant to investors who hold their shares through tax-deferred arrangements, such as 401(k) plans or individual retirement accounts.

In calculating the federal income taxes due on redemptions, capital gains taxes resulting from redemptions are subtracted from the redemption proceeds and the tax benefits from capital losses resulting from the redemptions are added to the redemption proceeds. Under certain circumstances, the addition of the tax benefits from capital losses resulting from redemptions may cause the Returns after taxes on distributions and sale of Fund shares to be greater than the Returns after taxes on distributions or even the Returns before taxes.

\* Effective July 31, 2018, the benchmark for the Fund changed from the MSCI EAFE Index to the MSCI World ex USA Index in order to better align the Fund's benchmark index with the investment adviser's view of the developed international equity markets.

## MANAGEMENT

**INVESTMENT ADVISER AND PORTFOLIO MANAGER.** Northern Trust Investments, Inc. ("NTI"), a subsidiary of Northern Trust Corporation, serves as the investment adviser of the International Equity Fund. Mark C. Sodergren, CFA, Senior Vice President of Northern Trust Investments, Inc., has been a manager of the Fund since January 2017. The Northern Trust Company, an affiliate of Northern Trust Investments, Inc., serves as transfer agent, custodian and sub-administrator to the Fund.

## PURCHASE AND SALE OF FUND SHARES

You may open an account directly with Northern Funds (the "Trust") with a minimum initial investment of \$2,500 in the Fund (\$500 for an IRA; \$250 under the Automatic Investment Plan; and \$500 for employees of Northern Trust and its affiliates). The minimum subsequent investment is \$50 (except for reinvestments of distributions for which there is no minimum). The Fund reserves the right to waive these minimums. You may also purchase Fund shares through your account at Northern Trust (or an affiliate) or an authorized intermediary.

On any business day, you may sell (redeem) or exchange shares through your account by contacting your Northern Trust account representative or authorized intermediary. If you purchase shares directly from the Trust, you may sell (redeem) or exchange your shares in one of the following ways:

- By Mail – Send a written request to: Northern Funds, P.O. Box 75986, Chicago, Illinois 60675-5986.
- By Telephone – Authorize the telephone privilege on your New Account Application. Call 800-595-9111 to use the telephone privilege.
- By Wire – Authorize wire redemptions on your New Account Application and have proceeds sent by federal wire transfer to a previously designated bank account (the minimum redemption amount by this method is \$250). You will be charged \$15 for each wire redemption unless the designated bank account is maintained at Northern Trust or an affiliated bank. Call 800-595-9111 for instructions.
- By Systematic Withdrawal – If you own shares of the Fund with a minimum value of \$10,000, you may elect to have a fixed sum redeemed at regular intervals and distributed in cash or reinvested in one or more other funds of the Trust. Call 800-595-9111 for an application form and additional information. The minimum amount is \$250 per withdrawal.

- By Exchange – Complete the Exchange Privilege section of your New Account Application to exchange shares of one fund in the Trust for shares of another fund in the Trust. Shares being exchanged must have a value of at least \$1,000 (\$2,500 if a new account is being established by the exchange, \$500 if the new account is an IRA). Call 800-595-9111 for more information.
- By Internet – You may initiate transactions between Northern Trust banking and Fund accounts by using Northern Trust Private Passport. For details and to sign up for this service, go to [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds) or contact your Relationship Manager.

## TAX INFORMATION

The Fund's distributions are generally taxable to you as ordinary income, qualified dividend income, capital gains, or a combination of the three, unless you are investing through a tax-exempt or tax-deferred arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan or an individual retirement account. Distributions may be taxable upon withdrawal from tax-deferred accounts.

## PAYMENTS TO BROKERS-DEALERS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

If you purchase the Fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank), the Fund and its related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of Fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your salesperson to recommend the Fund over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.