

# Summary Prospectus

## FlexShares® Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index Fund



June 25, 2019 | Ticker: QLVE | Stock Exchange: NYSE Arca

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 [www.flexshares.com/prospectus](http://www.flexshares.com/prospectus). You can also get this information at no cost by calling 1-855-FLEXETF (1-855-353-9383) or by sending an e-mail request to [info@flexshares.com](mailto:info@flexshares.com). The Fund's complete Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information, both dated June 25, 2019, 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.

Beginning on January 1, 2021, as permitted by regulations adopted by the SEC, paper copies of FlexShares® Trust's shareholder reports will no longer be sent by mail, unless you specifically request paper copies of the reports from FlexShares® Trust or your financial intermediary, such as a broker-dealer or bank. Instead, the reports will be made available on FlexShares® Trust's website ([www.flexshares.com](http://www.flexshares.com)) and you will be notified by mail each time a report is posted and provided with a website link to access the report. If you have already elected to receive your shareholder reports electronically, you will not be affected by this change and you need not take any action. You may elect to receive shareholder reports and other communications from FlexShares® Trust electronically at any time by contacting your financial intermediary. You may elect to receive all future reports in paper free of charge. Please contact your financial intermediary to continue receiving paper copies of your shareholder reports. Your election to receive reports in paper will apply to all funds in FlexShares® Trust that you hold in your account at the financial intermediary. You must provide separate instructions to each of your financial intermediaries.

### Investment Objective

The Fund seeks investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the Northern Trust Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index<sup>SM</sup> (the "Underlying Index").

### 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. Under the Fund's Investment Advisory Agreement, the Fund is responsible for the following expenses: interest expenses, brokerage commissions and other trading expenses, fees and expenses of the independent trustees and their independent legal counsel, taxes and other extraordinary costs such as litigation and other expenses not incurred in the ordinary course of business. You will also incur usual and customary brokerage commissions when buying or selling shares of the Fund in the secondary market, which are not reflected in the example that follows:

Annual Fund Operating Expenses (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)	
Management Fees	0.40%
Distribution (12b-1) Fees	0.00%
Other Expenses <sup>(1)</sup>	0.00% <sup>(2)</sup>
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses	0.40%
Expense Reimbursement <sup>(3)</sup>	0.00% <sup>(2)</sup>
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement <sup>(1)</sup>	0.40%

<sup>(1)</sup> Other expenses are estimated for the current fiscal year, as the Fund has not commenced operations as of the date of this Prospectus.

<sup>(2)</sup> Amount is less than 0.005%.

<sup>(3)</sup> Northern Trust Investments, Inc. ("NTI" or "Investment Adviser") has contractually agreed to reimburse certain expenses of the

Trust's independent trustees for at least one year from the date of the Prospectus. The Fund's Board of Trustees may terminate the contractual arrangement at any time if it determines that it is in the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders.

### Example

The following Example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other 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	\$ 41
3 Years	\$ 128

**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 fund operating expenses or in the Example, affect the Fund's performance. Portfolio turnover may vary from year to year, as well as within a year. As of the date of this Prospectus, the Fund had not commenced operations.

### Principal Investment Strategies

The Underlying Index is designed to reflect the performance of a selection of companies that, in aggregate, possess lower overall absolute volatility characteristics relative to a broad universe of securities domiciled in emerging market countries, (the "Parent Index"). The Parent Index is a subset of the Northern Trust Global Index, limited to those securities domiciled in emerging markets and designated as

Large/Mid cap by the Index Provider. In addition, the Underlying Index looks to select companies from the Parent Index that exhibit financial strength and stability (i.e., quality) characteristics. The Underlying Index seeks to enhance risk-return characteristics and have lower volatility relative to the broader emerging equity market.

To derive the Underlying Index, the Index Provider ranks all constituents of the Parent Index using a Northern Trust proprietary quality factor. This factor is designed to measure companies based on their strength in profitability, management expertise and cash flow. The Index Provider then excludes the lowest quintile of constituents ranked according to this factor and uses an optimization process to select and weight eligible securities in order to (a) reduce overall portfolio volatility and (b) maximize the overall quality score relative to the Parent Index. The optimization also includes sector, industry group, region, country and weight constraints so that these characteristics in the Underlying Index vary within acceptable bands relative to the Parent Index.

As of May 31, 2019, the Underlying Index was comprised of 179 constituent securities with market capitalizations ranging from \$1.29 billion to \$ 395.84 billion. As of May 31, 2019, the top five countries (by weighting) represented in the Underlying Index were China (28.69%), Taiwan (13.50%), South Korea (10.35%), India (9.43%), and Brazil (6.07%). The Underlying Index is governed by published, objective rules for security selection, exclusion, weighting, rebalancing and adjustments for corporate actions and is reconstituted quarterly. The composition of the Underlying Index will change over time. The inception date of the Underlying Index is June 30, 2014.

NTI uses a “passive” or indexing approach to try to achieve the Fund’s investment objective. Unlike many investment companies, the Fund does not try to “beat” the index it tracks and does not seek temporary defensive positions when markets decline or appear overvalued. In addition to tracking the performance of the Underlying Index, the Investment Adviser seeks to minimize portfolio turnover and tax inefficiencies.

NTI uses a representative sampling strategy to manage the Fund. “Representative sampling” is investing in a representative sample of securities that collectively has an investment profile similar to the Underlying Index. The Fund may or may not hold all of the securities that are included in the Underlying Index. The Fund reserves the right to invest in substantially all of the securities in its Underlying Index in approximately the same proportions (i.e., replication) if NTI determines that it is in the best interest of the Fund.

Under normal circumstances, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its total assets (exclusive of collateral held from securities

lending) in the securities of the Underlying Index and in American Depositary Receipts (“ADRs”) and Global Depositary Receipts (“GDRs”) (collectively “Depositary Receipts”) based on the securities in the Underlying Index. The Fund may also invest up to 20% of its assets in cash and cash equivalents, including shares of money market funds advised by NTI or its affiliates, futures contracts, options on futures contracts and forward currency contracts, as well as securities not included in the Underlying Index, but which NTI believes will help the Fund track its Underlying Index.

The Underlying Index is created and sponsored by NTI, as the Index Provider. NTI also serves as the investment adviser to the Fund. The Index Provider determines the composition and relative weightings of the securities in the Underlying Index and publishes information regarding the market value of the Underlying Index.

The Fund may lend securities representing up to one-third of the value of the Fund’s total assets (including the value of the collateral received).

The Fund is “non-diversified” under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (“1940 Act”), as amended, and may invest more of its assets in fewer issuers than “diversified” funds.

**Industry Concentration Policy.** The Fund will concentrate its investments (i.e., hold 25% or more of its total assets) in a particular industry or group of industries to approximately the same extent that the Underlying Index is concentrated.

## Principal Risks

As with any investment, you could lose all or part of your investment in the Fund, and the Fund’s performance could trail that of other investments. The Fund is subject to the principal risks noted below, any of which may adversely affect the Fund’s net asset value (“NAV”), trading price, yield, total return and ability to meet its investment objective.

**Authorized Participant Concentration Risk** is the risk that the Fund may be adversely affected because it has a limited number of institutions that act as authorized participants (“Authorized Participants”). Only an Authorized Participant may engage in creation or redemption transactions directly with the Fund. To the extent that these institutions exit the business or are unable to proceed with creation and/or redemption orders with respect to the Fund and no other Authorized Participant is able to step forward to create or redeem Creation Units (as defined below), Fund shares may trade at a discount to NAV and possibly face trading halts and/or delisting. This risk may be heightened because of its investments in non-U.S. securities.

**Calculation Methodology Risk** is the risk that the Underlying Index’s calculation methodology or sources of information may not provide an accurate assessment of

included issuers or correct valuation of securities, nor is the availability or timeliness of the production of the Index guaranteed. A security included in an Underlying Index may not exhibit the characteristic or provide the specific exposure for which it was selected and consequently a Fund's holdings may not exhibit returns consistent with that characteristic or exposure.

**China Investment Risk** is the risk of investing in securities of Chinese issuers. The Chinese economy may be subject to considerable degrees of economic, political and social instability. China is an emerging market and demonstrates significantly higher volatility from time to time in comparison to developed markets. Despite recent reforms of economic and market practices, Chinese markets generally continue to experience inefficiency, volatility and pricing anomalies resulting from governmental influence, a lack of publicly available information and/or political and social instability. Export growth continues to be a major driver of China's rapid economic growth. Reduced spending on Chinese products and services, institution of tariffs or other trade barriers, or a downturn in any of the economies of China's key trading partners may have an adverse impact on the Chinese economy.

**Concentration Risk** is the risk that, to the extent the Fund's investments are concentrated in the securities of issuers in a particular region, country, market, industry, sector or asset class, the Fund may be subject to increased price volatility and may be more susceptible to adverse economic, market, political or regulatory occurrences affecting that region, country, market, industry, sector or asset class.

**Currency Risk** is the risk that foreign currencies, 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.

**Cyber Security and Operational Risk** is the risk that the Fund and its service providers may experience disruptions that arise from breaches in cyber security, human error, processing and communications errors, counterparty or third-party errors, technology or systems failures, any of which may have an adverse impact on the Fund. Failures or breaches of the electronic systems of the Fund, the Investment Adviser, distributor, and other service providers,

market makers, Authorized Participants or the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests have the ability to cause disruptions and negatively impact the Fund's business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses to the Fund and its shareholders.

**Derivatives Risk** is the risk of investing in derivative instruments, such as futures contracts, options on futures contracts and forward currency contracts. These risks include liquidity, interest rate, market, credit, counterparty and management risks, as well as the risk of mispricing or improper valuation. Changes in the value of a derivative may not correlate perfectly with the underlying asset, rate or index, and the Fund could lose more than the principal amount invested.

**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.

**Equity Securities Risk** is the risk that the values of the equity securities owned by the Fund may be more volatile and underperform other asset classes and the general securities 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 competitions and the availability and cost of capital funds.

**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 U.S. securities, 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 significantly invested in a single country or geographic region, the Fund will be subject to the risks associated with that particular country or region.

**Large Cap Risk** is the risk that returns on investments in stocks of large companies could trail the returns on investments in stocks of smaller and mid-sized companies.

**Large Shareholder Risk** is the risk that certain shareholders, including other funds advised by the Investment Adviser, may from time to time own a substantial amount of the Fund's shares. In addition, a third party investor, the

Investment Adviser or an affiliate of the Investment Adviser, an authorized participant, a lead market maker, or another entity may invest in the Fund and hold its investment for a limited period of time solely to facilitate commencement of the Fund or to facilitate the Fund's achieving a specified size or scale. There can be no assurance that any large shareholder would not redeem its investment, that the size of the Fund would be maintained at such levels or that the Fund would continue to meet applicable listing requirements. Redemptions by large shareholders could have a significant negative impact on the Fund. In addition, transactions by large shareholders may account for a large percentage of the trading volume on Fund's listing exchange and may, therefore, have a material upward or downward effect on the market price of the shares.

**Low Volatility Risk** is the risk that although the Underlying Index is designed to have overall volatility that is lower than that of the Parent Index, there is no guarantee it will be successful. Securities or other assets in the Fund's portfolio may be subject to price volatility and the prices may not be any less volatile than the market as a whole and could be more volatile. The market prices of the securities or other assets in the fund's portfolio may fluctuate, sometimes rapidly and unpredictably. The Fund will continue to seek to track the Underlying Index even if the Underlying Index does not have lower overall volatility than the Parent Index. There is also the risk that the Fund may experience volatility greater than that of the Parent Index as a result of tracking error. A portfolio of securities with greater volatility is generally considered to have a higher risk profile than a portfolio with lower volatility.

**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 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 individual companies, particular sectors or governments and/or general economic conditions throughout the world due to increasingly interconnected global economies and financial markets.

**Market Trading Risk** is the risk that the Fund faces because its shares are listed on a securities exchange, including the potential lack of an active market for Fund shares, losses from trading in secondary markets, periods of high volatility and disruption in the creation/redemption process of the Fund. ANY OF THESE FACTORS MAY LEAD TO THE FUND'S SHARES TRADING AT A PREMIUM OR DISCOUNT TO NAV.

The Fund is newly organized and has no operating history. Although the Fund's shares are expected to be listed for trading on the NYSE Arca, Inc., there can be no assurance that an active trading market for such shares will be developed or maintained. There can be no assurance that the requirements necessary to maintain the listing of Fund shares will continue to be met or will remain unchanged.

Trading in Fund shares may be halted due to market conditions or for reasons that, in the view of its listing exchange, make trading in the shares inadvisable. The market prices of Fund shares will generally fluctuate in accordance with changes in its NAV, changes in the relative supply of, and demand for, Fund shares, and changes in the liquidity, or the perceived liquidity, of the Fund's holdings.

**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, and may lack sufficient market liquidity. Mid-sized companies may have limited product lines or financial resources, and may be dependent upon a particular niche of the market, or may be dependent upon a small or inexperienced management group. Securities of smaller companies 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.

**New Fund Risk** is the risk that the Fund will not grow to or maintain an economically viable size, in which case it may experience greater tracking error to its Underlying Index than it otherwise would at higher asset levels, or it could ultimately liquidate without shareholder approval. The timing of such liquidation may not be favorable and could have negative tax consequences for shareholders. From time to time, an Authorized Participant, a third-party investor, the Investment Adviser or an affiliate of the Investment Adviser, may invest in the Fund and hold its investment for a specific period of time in order to facilitate commencement of the Fund's operations or for the Fund to achieve size or scale. There can be no assurance that any such entity would not redeem its investment or that the size of the Fund would be maintained at such levels, which could negatively impact the Fund. The Fund's Distributor does not maintain a secondary market in the shares.

**Non-Diversification Risk** is the risk that Fund performance may depend on the performance of a small number of issuers because the Fund may invest a large percentage of its assets in securities issued by or representing a small number of issuers.

**Passive Investment Risk** is the risk that the Fund is not actively managed and NTI does not attempt to take defensive positions in any market conditions, including declining markets.

**Securities Lending Risk** is the risk that the Fund may lose money because the borrower of the loaned securities fails to return the securities in a timely manner or at all. The Fund could also lose money in the event of a decline in the value of collateral provided for loaned securities or a decline in the value of any investments made with cash collateral.

**Tracking Error Risk** is the risk that the Fund's performance may vary substantially from the performance of the Underlying Index. The Fund employs a representative sampling strategy, and may incur tracking error to a greater extent than a fund that seeks to replicate an index. The representative sampling strategy used by NTI may fail to produce the intended results.

**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. The Fund relies on various sources to calculate its NAV. The information may be provided by third parties that are believed to be reliable, but the information may not be accurate due to errors by such pricing sources, technological issues or otherwise.

**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

Because the Fund has less than one full calendar year of performance, no performance information has been included.

## Management

**Investment Adviser and Portfolio Managers.** Northern Trust Investments, Inc., an indirect subsidiary of Northern Trust Corporation, serves as the Investment Adviser of the Fund. Robert Anstine and Brendan Sullivan, each a Vice President of Northern Trust Investments, Inc., have served as Portfolio Managers of the Fund since its inception in 2019.

## Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares

The Fund is an exchange-traded fund (commonly referred to as an "ETF"). Individual Fund shares may only be purchased and sold on a national securities exchange through a broker-dealer. The price of Fund shares is based on market price, and because ETF shares trade at market prices rather

than NAV, shares may trade at a price greater than NAV (a premium) or less than NAV (a discount). The Fund will only issue or redeem shares that have been aggregated into blocks of 100,000 shares or multiples thereof ("Creation Units") to Authorized Participants who have entered into agreements with the Fund's distributor. The Fund will issue or redeem Creation Units in return for a basket of assets that the Fund specifies each day.

## Tax Information

The Fund's distributions are generally taxable to you as ordinary income, qualified dividends, capital gains, Section 199A dividends or a combination of the four, 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), NTI and its related companies may pay the intermediary for activities related to the marketing and promotion of the Fund. 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.

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