Better Alternatives to get Miles (vs the KrisFlyer UOB Account)

Description

In my last post, I wrote about how I was misled by the influencers who worked on the #KrisFlyerUOB campaign to believe it was a good account, when it really wasnâ??t.

Now that weâ??ve seen how lifestyle influencers are capable of royally screwing up reviews related to financial products, how about brands start giving the sponsored posts to the financial bloggers instead?

A few folks have asked for my opinion of the KrisFlyer UOB account, so here it is : **No, I will not be signing up for the KrisFlyer UOB account,** simply because the maximum miles per dollar (mpd) I can realistically earn is only 1.4. There are **so much more better alternatives**, which Iâ??ll show you in a bit.

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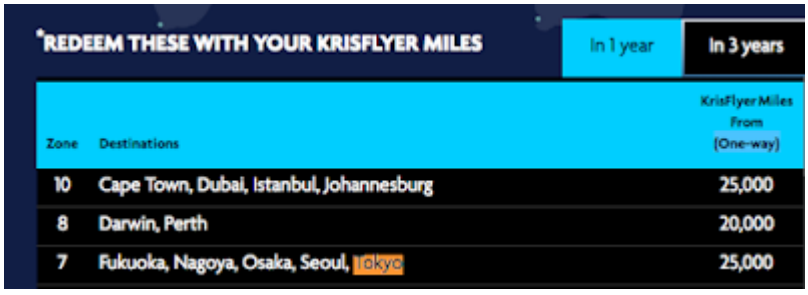
What you need to know about the KrisFlyer UOB account

Firstly, you should know that **the KrisFlyer UOB account does not pay you any interest on your deposits.** None of the 4 influencers told you that, but I will.

Secondly, **their debit card doesnâ??t have the cashback / other rewards of a credit card.** This is worse than my UOB One which at least gives me cc perks AND helps me get a higher interest rate on my saving deposits.



Letâ??s illustrate using a return trip to Tokyo (like what LadyIronChef did).

#KrisFlyerUOB : Spend $36,000 in a year i.e. $3,000 a month.

UOB One: For the same spend, this will give me $1,800 in cold, hard cash back. How many Japan trips can you buy with that?



$3,000 a month is too unrealistic? Okay, letâ??s try to **go to Bangkok like Bellywellyjelly did** instead. If I swipe this on my UOB One card, thatâ??ll give me $594 in rebates.

The last I checked, itâ??ll only cost me $171 for a Bangkok trip in December. I can use the rest of the money to shop, whereas the KrisFlyer UOB will only get me the return flight.

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Come on, given these, how is the KrisFlyer UOB a good tip? What on earth were these influencers thinking?

Donâ??t like UOB after this whole saga? Hey, some of their other products are actually pretty good. But no worries because Budget Babe has â??got you coveredâ?• (like bellywellyjelly)!

Here are some better ways you can get your FREE flights

Instead of putting your savings into an account that doesnâ??t even pay you any interest, how about investing your deposit instead?

I can actually earn enough interest to afford my Bangkok return flight in just 7 months if I park my $30,000 in the Singapore Saving Bonds (SSBs), which doesnâ??t require me to spend a single cent extra either.

	UOB KrisFlyer account	CIMB SGD Fixed Deposit	Singapore Savings Bonds	Lippo Malls Indonesia Retail Trust (SGX:D5IU)
Amount deposited	$30,000			
Duration	1 year			
Interest earned / returns	$0 (8,400 miles if you spend $500 x 12 months)	$375	$300	$2,589

Or, if I leave the money aside for much longer (come on, I can afford to go to Bangkok using my next monthâ??s paycheck), Iâ??ll could even get up to $8000+. Pretty sure this will get me more than just that ONE return Sydney trip Mel said she unlocked with the KrisFlyer UOB.

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	UOB KrisFlyer account	RHB Singapore Fixed Deposit	Singapore Savings Bonds	Lippo Malls Indonesia Retail Trust (SGX:D5IU)
Amount deposited	$30,000			
Duration	3 years			
Interest earned / returns	$0 (About 25,000 miles if you spend $500 x 12 months)	$1,107	$1,269 (May '17 tranche)	**$8,456***

Assumptions:
**Based on a trailing dividend yield of 8.63%*
1st year dividends: $2,589
2nd year dividends: $2,812
3rd year dividends : $3,055
Excluding possible capital gains, which are impossible to foresee accurately.
Given that the company recently said theyâ??re positive of their long-term outlook, Iâ??m assuming dividends do not get cut.

If you prefer to play the miles game instead of using cold hard cash to pay for your flights, there are better ways too. Iâ??m not as good at miles hacking so Iâ??m not going to pretend and give you guys any advice here *(unlike *cough* some influencers *cough*)*, so blogger Aaron Wong has kindly agreed to pitch in (of the MileLion, you guys should check him out).

Here are FIVE (better) alternatives to play the miles game

The below section is contributed courtesy of www.milelion.com and written exclusively for you Budget Babe readers. I take no credit for

this piece of genius; I merely rewrote it.

Assuming $30,000 sits in your account + you spend $1,000 on your credit cards each month, youâ??ll earn just 16,800 miles from your KrisFlyer UOB account after one year.

First, put that $30k in a high-yield savings account like the UOB One, OCBC 360 or CIMB StarSaver. *(CIMB gives you 0.8% p.a. interest credit â?? or $240 â?? without you having to do anything.)*

Miles Hack 1: Sign up for the CitiBank PremierMiles card

	If youâ??re a new Citibank credit card holder	**If youâ??re an existing Citibank credit card holder**
Total miles from sign up bonus + base	42,000 miles	15,000 miles
First 3 month spending requirements	S$10K + payment of annual fee (S$192.60)	S$10K + payment of annual fee (S$192.60)

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Miles Hack 2: Split your $12,000 annual spending into 30% dining, 30% online and 40% on everything else and use these 3 cards to pay for it

- HSBC Advance / UOB Pref Platinum AMEX (UOB only applicable for existing cardholders) = 4 miles per dollar (mpd) for dining
- DBS Womanâ??s World Card / Citibank Rewards / HSBC Advance = 4 mpd for online
- UOB PRVI Miles AMEX = 1.4 mpd on general

Since the weighted average MPD = 2.96, to get your 16,800 miles, youâ??ll only need to spend $5,676 instead of the $12,000 required on the KrisFlyer UOB account. Save the $6,324 guys!

Miles Hack 3: If you earn >$50,000 a year and split your spending the same way (30-30-40) :

- Maybank Horizon Visa Signature = 3.2 mpd on dining
- Citibank rewards = 4 mpd on online
- DBS Altitude = 1.2 mpd on general

The weighted average MPD here = 2.64, so to get the 16,800 miles, youâ??ll only need to spend $6,363 (we just helped you to save $5,637!)



Exclusive to DBS Altitude Visa Signature Card:

From 1 Mar to 31 Jul 2017, enjoy double miles (S$1 = up to 6 miles) when you register & spend above S$2,500 per calendar month!

	First S$2,500 total spend on your Card	Next S$2,501 - S$5,000 total spend on your Card
Online flight & hotel transactions	S$1 = 3 miles	S$1 = 6 miles[b]
Overseas spend	S$1 = 2 miles	S$1 = 4 miles[b]
Local spend	S$1 = 1.2 miles	S$1 = 2.4 miles[b]

Miles Hack 4: If youâ??re a sucker for just ONE card, sign up for the DBS Altitude Visa Signature by 30 June 2017.

- Get 10k miles when you spend at least $1k each for the first 2 months.
- Get the remaining 6,800 miles by doing ANY of the following:
  - Spend $5,667 locally = 1.2 mpd or
  - Spend $3,400 overseas = 2 mpd or
  - Spend $2,267 on online flight and hotels = 3 mpd (how about flying your family of 4 to London for this amount?)

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Miles Hack 5: Hereâ??s the BEST deal. **Enjoy 46.7 MPD when you sign up for the Citibank Prestige card**, pay the annual fee of $535 and get 25,000 miles! The only catch? You gotta be earning $120k per annum. (Edit: the 46.7 mpd didnâ??t come from MileLion cos the term is technically used to refer to dollars spent on stuff other than the annual fee. But to Budget Babe, I count my miles per dollar spent to be inclusive of my annual fee lol!)

Now beat that, #KrisFlyerUOB!

Who gave the better tips?

With love,
Budget Babe

Category

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