BOC SmartSaver is the better version of the new OCBC 360 account

Description

Ever since OCBC changed their payment terms for their 360 account, Iâ??ve been moping about the reduction in interest payments I get from them each month, as the maximum capped interest is now only 3.05% and includes a lot more work to get that level of interest rate.

The UOB One was a good welcome, BUT I eventually moved back to OCBC 360 (partly out of habit) as the requirements were a little difficult for me to meet in my current lifestyle. While a $500 spending on my UOB One card, I didnâ??t set up 3 GIRO payments (no recurring bills except my monthly telco) and felt bad about asking my HR to switch the salary crediting account after slightly over a year.

Some of the other financial bloggers have signed up with Bank of China SmartSaver, so I decided to take a look at it to see if it would be worth the effort switching.

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At first glance, it does remind me a lot of the old OCBC 360, which I sorely miss. BOC SmartSaver gives the opportunity to earn up to 3.55% per annum, so for those of you who have been disappointed like I am with the reduction in your interest payments from OCBC 360, this might be another good alternative to consider.

About BOC SmartSaver account

BOC SmartSaver offers 2 types of interest payments: prevailing and bonus interests.

The prevailing interest is calculated based on your account ledger balance at the end of the day, on a tier basis i.e. the more you deposit, the higher interest rate you can earn. This is accrued daily. Took the below table from their website which illustrates the prevailing rates.

Prevailing Savings Interest Rate (SGD)	
Below S$5,000	0.25%
S$5,000 and above	0.275%
S$20,000 and above	0.35%
S$50,000 and above	0.40%

Nothing too fantastic, but when you add in the bonus interest rates, hereâ??s where things get a little more exciting.



In addition to the prevailing saving interests (which are quite bleh), you can also earn bonus interest on the first $60,000 of your account balance when you meet the above criteria.

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- Spend $500 on your BOC credit card
- Get your company HR to credit at least $2,000 into your account
- Transact 3 bill payments

For those of you who work part-time or on contract basis, BOCâ??s scheme is more friendly as it also allows multiple salary credits each calendar month to accumulate your $2,000 sum. If you take 3 minutes to inform your HR department to make this switch, let them know your BOC SmartSaver account number and the bankâ??s SWIFT code, which is BKCHSGSGXXX.

I compared their credit card offerings and frankly speaking, wasnâ??t too impressed. Their marketing department clearly forgot about their website, because there are even expired promotions still being featured (like their previous 1-for-1 Shaw movie tickets). By comparison among similarly tagged credit cards, I still prefer OCBCâ??s 365 credit card and the UOB One card.

However, their BOC Shop! Card looks pretty interesting.



What I really like is the 6% cash rebate for online spending. Considering how most of us buy so many goods and services online in this age of e-commerce, this is a really attractive offer. Imagine getting $30 in rebates and an additional 1.55% for your savings account when you meet the $500 spending requirement.

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CATEGORIES	MONTHLY CASH REBATE
Online Spend	6%*
Department Stores+	6%*
All other spend	1%* (Above S$1,000)
	0.5%* (S$1,000 & below)

CATEGORIES	MONTHLY SPEND	REBATES	MONTHLY CASH REBATE EARNED
Online Spend	S$500	6%	S$30
Department Stores	S$500	6%	S$30
All other spend	S$1,200	1%	S$12
Total	S$2,200	**S$72**	

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After reviewing this and comparing with what I currently get from OCBC 360 and UOB One, Iâ??m personally contemplating switching to BOC SmartSaver and using BOC Shop! Card to accumulate the $500 monthly spend, which concurrently gives me attractive rebates for the same spending.

With their 6% rebate for online purchases, this is probably the most tempting for me as Iâ??ve been spending quite a lot online (Taobao, especially, since Iâ??m DIY-ing most of my wedding stuff) lately. Iâ??ve only been receiving about $10 in rebates from my OCBC credit cards so getting $360 rebates every year on BOC Shop! sounds good.

Killing two birds with one stone never felt better!

Have any of you tried BOC SmartSaver yet? Do let me know how your experience has been like so far before I make the switch!

With love,
Budget Babe

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