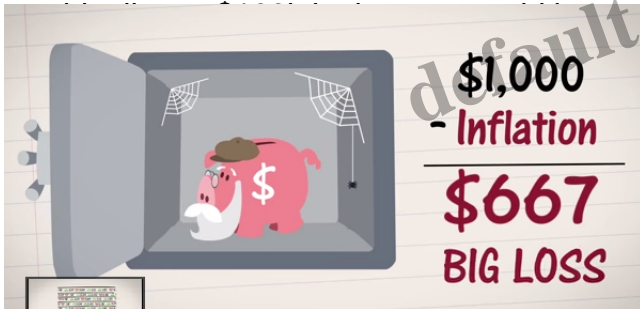


How To Get Started on Investing

Description



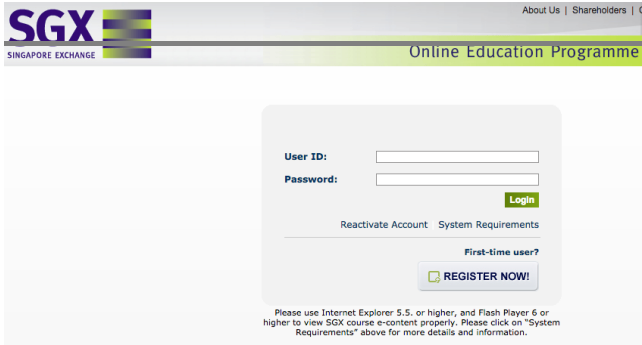
Getting started on investing can be a pretty complicated process. As many of you regular readers would know, I started taking interest on how to make my money work better for me after [I saved up \\$20,000 last year](#). After all, simply keeping your money in the bank is a foolish thing to do because your money decreases in value over time, due to inflation and rising costs of living. As your parents



I've to confess that SGX has made it a lot harder for people to start investing by implementing various measures, in order to ensure that those who invest have the prior knowledge of the risks they are getting themselves into and are qualified to invest.

But if you really want to make your money work for it (and beat inflation rate), here's the process on how you can start:

Step 1: Get educated on SGX Online Academy



The screenshot shows the SGX Online Education Programme interface. At the top left is the SGX Singapore Exchange logo. To the right are links for 'About Us', 'Shareholders', and 'Contact Us'. Below the header is a green bar with the text 'Online Education Programme'. The main content area features a login form with fields for 'User ID:' and 'Password:', a 'Login' button, and links for 'Reactivate Account' and 'System Requirements'. Below the login form is a section for 'First-time user?' with a 'REGISTER NOW!' button. At the bottom, a small note states: 'Please use Internet Explorer 5.5 or higher, and Flash Player 6 or higher to view SGX course e-content properly. Please click on "System Requirements" above for more details and information.'

You're required to first take an online course by SGX before you can start investing. Most brokers will also require this as a pre-requisite before they can open your brokerage account for you, and this is probably the part which will take up the most of your time.

You can sign up for SGX Online Academy [here](#). It's free!

Once you've registered an account, you have to undergo a Customer Account Review as well as 7 modules explaining to you the different types of trading products. Each module is pretty comprehensive and may take you about 1 hour each to complete. I recommend setting aside a full day, or 8 hours, to complete this course. If, like me, you're unable to spare large pockets of time, then break it up across different days to finish. (FYI, this course took me 3 weeks to finish due to my busy schedule.)

Step 2: Take the SGX Online Assessment



[About Us](#) | [Shareholders](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Online Education Programme

[Home](#) | [My Courses](#) | [Preferences](#) | [Support](#) | [Logout](#)

My Courses > Customer Account Review and SGX Online Education Programme

Customer Account Review and SGX Online Education Programme

	Modules	Status
Customer Account Review for SGX-Listed Specified Investment Products		
	Customer Account Review (CAR)	completed
Learning About SGX-Listed Specified Investment Products		
	Module 1: Introduction	completed
	Module 2: Warrants & Options	completed
	Module 3: Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)	completed
	Module 4: Exchange Traded Notes (ETNs)	completed
	Module 5: Futures	completed
	Module 6: Certificates	completed
	Module 7: Callable Bull/Bear Contracts (CBBC)	completed
Quiz		
	Quiz on SGX-Listed Specified Investment Products	passed

 Please do not close/refresh this window while taking the module.

On top of the mini quiz questions that you'll be asked during the modules, you have to sit for a final quiz upon completion. This quiz consists of 20 questions covering all the modules taught, and you'll have to pass the quiz before you can be deemed as qualified to start investing. You'll need to declare your quiz score and date of assessment (presumably for them to double-check that you're not lying) to the brokers before they will assess your application to open an account.


Step 3: Create a CDP / Brokerage Account

SECURITIES ACCOUNT INFORMATION UPDATE (INDIVIDUAL / JOINT)

IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF
(Faxed and scanned copies are not acceptable)

Please complete in BLOCK letters and tick ☒ where applicable.

Securities Account Number:



PART I: ACCOUNT HOLDER

Name (as in CDP records)

NRIC/Passport Number Joint Account Holder (if applicable) NRIC/Passport Number

PART II: UPDATE OF ADDRESS

Mailing Address (all statements and correspondence will be sent to this address)

Postal Code

There are 2 ways you can go about doing it from here. Either

1. Open a CDP account directly
2. Open a CDP and brokerage account through a licensed broker

If you choose option 1, you can download CDP Application Form [here](#).

Submit the completed application form to SGX CDP Customer Service, which is located at 9 North Buona Vista Drive #01-19/20 The Metropolis Singapore 138588.

After your CDP account has been created, you'll need to link it to your choice of brokerage firm via their own application forms.

If you choose option 2 (which was what I did), you can go straight to a brokerage firm and get them to create your CDP account on your behalf. The same CDP form will be given to you to fill up, and they will coordinate the rest for you.

How to choose a broker? There's no right or wrong, or "best broker". Key questions to look out for are a) markets you're interested in trading and b) minimum commissions. Watch out for the last one, as signing up with a brokerage which charges high commissions could potentially mean you may end up spending a lot especially if you transact frequently, since charges are per transaction.

Here's a comparison table I drew up during the course of my research that you may find helpful:

Brokerage Firm	Online Markets Access	Minimum Commissions	Minimum Investment
AmFraser Securities	Malaysia, Singapore, USA	\$20 – \$25	–
CIMB Securities iTrade	Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, USA	\$8 – \$25	–
Citibank Brokerage	Hong Kong, Singapore, USA	\$18 – \$40	–
DBS Vickers	Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore, USA	\$15 – \$40	– (\$1000 deposit for non-residents)
Kim Eng	Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, USA	\$15 – \$35	–
Lim & Tan	Australia, China B, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, USA	\$25 – \$100	– (\$5000 deposit for non-residents)
OCBC Securities	Australia, China B, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, UK, USA	\$15 – \$120	– (\$2000 deposit for non-residents)
Philip Capital	Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, UK, USA	\$20 – \$50	– (\$5000 initial payment for non-residents)
Saxo Capital Markets	Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece (CFDs only), Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA	\$7 – \$40	\$10,000

Standard Chartered Bank Securities Trading	Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece (CFDs only), Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA	No minimum	–
UOB Kay Hian	Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, USA	\$15 – \$35	–

Step 4: Submit Your Application Documents

This is another lengthy process, so do spare some time to properly fill up the application documents before submitting them. You'll need to submit your NRIC and either your passport / driving license / CPF statement / latest payslip as well.

Each broker has different application documents so I will not be providing any links here. You may go directly to your broker for the respective forms required.

Step 5: Log In

The screenshot shows the SGX Central Depository (CDP) login interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like 'About Us', 'Shareholders', 'Careers', 'SGXNet', 'Contact Us', and 'FAQs'. Below this is a header with the SGX logo and 'The Central Depository' title. A menu bar contains 'Market Information', 'Company Disclosure', 'Products', 'Services', 'Trading', 'Depository', 'Clearing', and 'Regulation'. The main content area has a 'CDP Login' section with a large banner image of a city skyline. Below the banner, there's a login form with fields for 'Securities Account No.' (with a dropdown menu showing '1681'), 'NRIC/Passport No.', and 'I-PIN'. There are 'Clear' and 'Login' buttons. To the right of the login form, there's a green box with a 'NEW' star icon announcing 'A new CDP Internet Service is coming your way!' and stating 'CDP will be launching our enhanced Internet Service with 2FA in March 2015.' Below this, there's a security alert titled 'Security Alert - POODLE Vulnerability' with a padlock icon, stating 'SGX will not support older browsers after 09-Feb-2015'.

Or you can also log in directly via your brokerage, which is the easier method if you want to buy / sell shares.

After about 2 weeks, your account should be set up and ready for you to start using. All you need to do is log in and start managing your portfolio ?

All the best for your investing journey,
Budget Babe

Credits: SGX Academy

Category

1. Investing