



Want to invest your CPF-OA at lowest fees? Use POEMS.

Description

Why I've decided to invest my CPF-OA now

Ever since our government announced that the CPF Special Account (SA) would be closed, I've been thinking hard about how to invest my CPF funds for higher returns.

It now makes little sense to continue transferring funds from my Ordinary Account (OA) to my SA; now that the closure (from age 55) will see all SA savings transferred to the Retirement Account (RA) up to the Full Retirement Sum (FRS), and any remaining savings returned to the OA.

And at that age, my remaining investment horizon and risk appetite will be significantly lower.

Having my money earn just 2.5% per annum - barely beating inflation - does not sound like a good plan to me. Hence, I started investing my CPF-OA monies this year.

This article documents my thought process and reasoning, and I hope it helps any of you who are wondering if you should start to invest your CPF too.

[Buying the S&P 500 with my CPF-OA](#)

Since my CPF-OA funds are illiquid and cannot be withdrawn until I turn 55, this means I have a long investment runway ahead of me.

Considering how my CPF-OA investible money is not nearly as significant as my own cash investments, I decided that the best way forward would be to invest in a diversified fund, and ideally one requiring minimal effort. I wanted an investment that I can just "buy and forget", rather than volatile stocks that I need to keep monitoring in case the markets turn volatile.

So I decided to invest in the [Amundi Prime USA Fund](#).

If you've never heard of it before, it is essentially *the* lowest cost unit trust that provides access to S&P 500 returns. As retail investors, we can use our CPF-OA and/or SRS monies to invest in it, easily beating the 2.5% and 0.05% p.a. respective returns we'd otherwise earn.

[About the Amundi Prime USA Fund](#)

The fund is managed by Amundi, recognised globally as one of the largest passive funds. It tracks the Solactive GBS United States Large & Mid Cap Index, which has historically outperformed the S&P 500.

Amundi charges an incredibly low expense ratio of just 0.05% p.a.

for this fund. This is significantly lower than many other unit trusts and much **even lower than the popular S&P 500 ETF CSPX favoured by non-US investors.**

When it comes to investing one's CPF, most people today either use a robo platform or go through their bank. This particular Amundi fund can only be found on limited platforms, meaning you won't be able to buy it through your usual fintech brokerage or any other local robo-advisory platform either.

Yet, I was not keen on either method, because they would mean having to accept higher fees. With robo-advisory platforms, in particular, there are recurring fees to be paid as your portfolio size grows bigger and even in years of inactivity.

Instead, I wanted a way to invest that would provide me with:

- **Low fees**
- **No recurring platform fees**
- **No incremental fees as my portfolio grows**
- **No charges for simply holding my investments** without transactions
- **Access to a local helpline** or support desk familiar with CPF investing

So when a fellow investor friend told me that she was switching to POEMS for her CPF investments, I realised my wishes have finally been answered.

Imagine my shock when I saw that I could buy the Amundi Prime USA Fund on POEMS with **no platform charges, no sales fees, and no additional costs** beyond what is already in the fund's Net Asset Value (NAV)! let's just say I nearly fell off my chair.

That's when I decided to swoop in during April's Liberation Day crash and deployed the majority of my investible CPF-OA funds into buying the [Amundi Prime USA Fund in SGD](#), to take advantage of the dip in the S&P 500.

< Transaction History

Stocks

UT

Bonds

Here's a snapshot of my trade in April. Looks like I managed to catch the exact bottom!

What's more, since the unit trust is traded in SGD, I don't have to worry about forex spreads due to exchange rate fluctuations each time I buy or sell. My entire portfolio tracking and calculation is based in SGD, rather than having to convert multiple times at the point of purchase and sale.

Why **POEMS** is the best, low-cost broker for CPF investments

If you're looking to invest your CPF or SRS into the S&P 500 or globally diversified funds, then you may want to check out the **Amundi Prime USA Fund** and **Amundi Index MSCI World Fund**, which offers the cheapest and most diversified exposure in its class.

And since [POEMS does not charge any fees for unit trusts investments](#), this can translate into significant cost savings over an investor's lifetime.



Phillip | Unit Trust

Introduction ▾

All About Fun

Why pay more when you can get **the real 0%**?

The 0% Fees is applicable to "Buy" orders, "Switch" orders and new Regular Savings Plan subscriptions submitted

0% Platform Fees

0% Sales Charge

0% Switching Fees

Other online platform(s) may charge **platform fees** on your Unit Trust holdings, which will erode your investment re

What does **ZERO FEES** mean to you?

POEMS: 0% Platform Fees

Market Pla Charges P

Invested Amount	Platform Fees	Cost incurred over years of investment			Platform Fees	1 Y
		1 Year	5 Years	10 Years		
\$50,000	0%	ZERO FEES			0.35%	\$
\$200,000	0%				0.35%	\$
\$500,000	0%				0.2%	\$1

Screenshot taken from POEMS website: <https://unittrust.poems.com.sg/zero-fees>

If you're like me, and intend to invest your CPF (or SRS) monies over 10 years or more, then saving on these fees really should matter to you.

It might sound too good to be true, and perhaps you're just like me, wondering *what's the catch?*

I reached out to POEMS' management to ask them, and here's their answer:

Zero fees? What's the catch?

POEMS: "We've been serving investors in Singapore for many years, and our mi

Aside from zero fees on all unit trusts, POEMS also provides easy access to a variety of international markets ([see list here](#)), including the popular Ireland-domiciled ETFs that many non-US investors prefer.



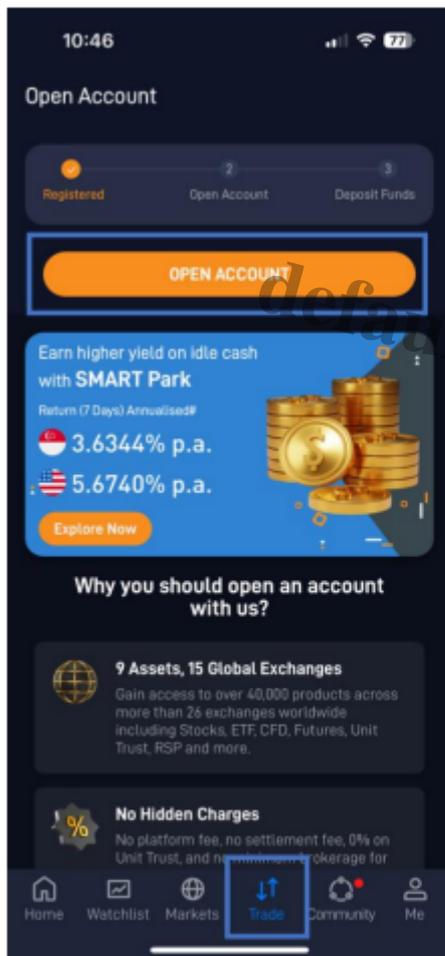
➔ Which markets are currently available for Pro?

The following are the markets available for trading on POEMS Pro:

1. SGX (Singapore Stock Exchange)
2. HKEx (Hong Kong Stock Exchange)
3. SSE (Shanghai Stock Exchange)
4. SZSE (Shenzhen Stock Exchange)
5. KLSE (Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange)
6. NYSE (New York Stock Exchange)
7. NYSE MKT (formerly known as AMEX)
8. NASDAQ
9. SET (The Stock Exchange of Thailand)
10. FWB (Frankfurt Stock Exchange)
11. LSE (London Stock Exchange)
12. TSE (Tokyo Stock Exchange)

Step-by-step guide to investing your CPF through POEMS

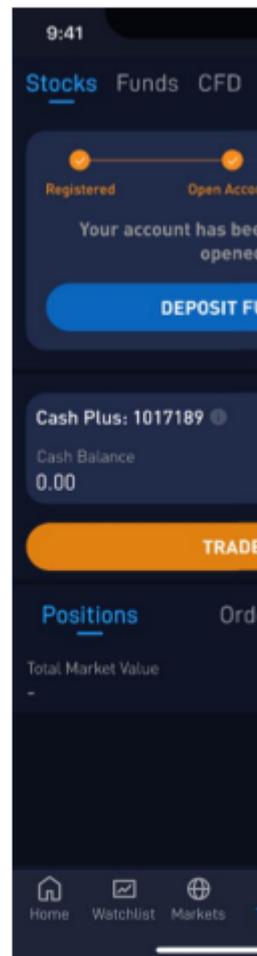
If you're opening a POEMS account for the first time, you can download the [POEMS Mobile 3 App](#) and register with your SingPass.



Step 1: Head to the "Trade" tab and select Open Account button.



Step 2: Open a POEMS Account either using Myinfo or online form.



Step 3: Upon successful opening, you can deposit funds into your account.

Step 1: Select your account type

- I recommend **opening both accounts** so that you have access to *both* low-cost trading as well as CDP linkage.
- Otherwise, select the **Cash Plus Account** if you *only* want to invest your CPF and are happy not owning any of your Singapore stocks in your own CDP account.

Step 1: Choose Account Type

Cash Plus Account

Low Cost Trading

- Low brokerage for over 11 markets
- 0% Unit Trust sales charge
- No custody fee ⓘ
- Fund cash or securities prior to trading
- Trade up to 3.5x of your cash deposit ⓘ

[Learn More](#) [Infosheet](#)

Cash Account

Link to CDP

- Contra
- 0% Unit T

Your CDP A

1681 -

Don't have a CDP open one

[Learn More](#)

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Step 2: Choose your desired facilities

Make sure you tick all of the below checkboxes if you want to get your welcome bonuses! (*Psst, having access doesn't mean you have to use them all*)

Step 2: Choose Facilities



Trading Facilities

Trade online through our suite of POEMS platforms, POEMS 2.0, POEMS Pro, POEMS Mobile 2.0, POEMS Mobile 3 or through your trading representative.

[Learn More](#)



Multi-Currency Facility

Settle trades with 10 different currencies: SGD, USD, HKD, AUD, MYR, JPY, GBP, EUR, CNY, CAD

[Learn More](#)

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Securities Borrowing and Lending (SBL) Facility

- Borrow Securities for short selling

[Learn More](#)



Contracts for (CFD)

- Up to 20 times leverage
- Ability to short sell.
- Access to global equities and commodities

[Learn More](#)

Step 3: Transfer at least \$3,000 into your Cash Plus Account to [qualify for the welcome gifts here](#).

Use PayNow to transfer almost instantaneously with no fees.

Current promotion: You can receive \$50 to \$150 worth of Amazon / Microsoft shares once you fulfil the (easy) criteria!

Note: If you're buying a CPF investment like me, the funds will be deducted

As for any unused cash, it will continue to earn POEMS's Smart Park rates un

Pro Tip: Check and ensure your CPA-OA has enough funds (in excess of \$20,000) for the deduction, otherwise, the transaction will fail and you will still be charged processing fees by your bank!

Step 4: Tap on Trade > UT > Search for your desired fund

Here's a screenshot of how it looks on my POEMS Mobile 3 app when I try to buy more units of **Amundi Prime USA** or **Amundi MSCI World Fund**.

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Stocks UT Options RSP Robo

< Amundi

Cash Plus: [View Details >](#)
Cash Balance Buying Power
.....

Transaction History Outstanding Positions Cash

INVEST **CART**

- Amundi Index Global Ag
UT 565002
- Amundi Index MSCI Em
UT 565003
- Amundi Index MSCI Wor
UT 565001
- Amundi Prime USA AS (C)
UT 565004

Holdings

Orders

Last Updated: 08 June 2025 10:03 PM

Total Market Value

Unrealized P/L

[Redacted]

[Redacted] (+14.16%)

All



All Fund Sources



SGD

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(+14.16%) ^

Name

Units
Ind. NAV

Cost
Mkt Value

Unrealized
P/L

Amundi Prime
USA AS (C) SGD

UT 565004

[Redacted]

+14.16%

[Redacted]



Click Buy/Sell, enter your amount, and choose CPF for your fund source.

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< Amundi Prime USA AS (C) SGD 

UT 565004

188.62 -1.1599 -0.61% Ind. NAV as of 05 Jun 2025

BUY SELL SWITCH RSP

Investment Amount 10,000

Payment Currency **SGD**

Fund Source **CPFOA-IA** 

Dividend Option **Reinvest**

Account Number Cash Plus: ****447

Min. Investment Amount 100 SGD

Min. Sub Investment Amount 100 SGD

Sales Charge 0 %

This table is applicable for funds with CPFOA/CPFSA as fund source

Available Cash in Account 0 SGD

BUY **ADD TO CART**

If you're buying on your desktop web login instead, click on **Trade > Unit Trust > type Amundi** in the search bar and you should find it.



Step 5: Sit back and let [POEMS](#) handle the rest!

With that, you've successfully transacted your CPF investment and POEMS will liaise with your bank for the rest.

Q: How much fees can I expect to be charged?

While POEMS does not charge anything for CPF investments in unit trusts, you will still need to pay agent bank fees for executing the service.

I've consolidated the applicable fees below - note that these apply regardless of your choice of brokerage.

Bank	Application fee per transaction for 1,000 units of Shares / ETFs / Unit Trusts / Government Bonds	Service charge (per counter, per quarter)	Minimum service fee
DBS	\$2.73 (max \$27.25)	\$2.18	\$5.45
OCBC	\$2.73 (max \$27.25)	\$2.18	\$0
UOB	\$2.18 (max \$21.80)	\$2.18	\$0

Q: Why open both account types?

The **POEMS Cash Plus account** is a pre-funded custodian account. This means you will need to ensure you have the cash ready *before* executing the trades, and ownership is managed on your

behalf.

- As all foreign assets are held in custody (this applies across all brokers in Singapore), custody fees for foreign market counters apply; e.g. \$2 per counter per month for CSPX.
- Get this waived off if your total assets invested via POEMS exceed \$250,000.

Because POEMS Cash Plus charges lower commission rates for access to both Singapore and overseas markets, you'll definitely want to have this account ready to strike when market opportunities arise.

That's how I managed to catch April's bottom - a feat that wouldn't have been possible if I had waited for the crash to come before opening my account.

Pro Tip: Avoid custodian fees by making at least 6 trades per quarter.

	 Cash Plus Account
\$0 US Commission for 30 days	✓
0% Sales Charge on Unit Trust	✓
Free Live Prices for SG & US Asian Hours	✓
Prices for US (NASDAQ, NYSE, AMEX), HK (HKEX) and US Options for non-professionals	✓
Free SGX Enhanced Market Depth Access until 30 November 2026	✓

The **POEMS Cash Management account** allows you to buy first and pay later, while also enjoying direct CDP ownership.

If you're a Singapore investor, I strongly recommend opening the Cash Management Account as well because it comes in handy for local investments that you'd want to keep under *your own* name in the CDP. This also means you don't pay CDP fees even during inactive quarters, just like me!

For first-time CPF investors:

Before you can invest your CPF monies through POEMS, you will first need to:

1. Open a CPF Investment Account (CPF-IA) with an authorised agent bank (i.e. DBS/OCBC/UOB).
2. Complete the Self-Awareness Questionnaire (SAQ) on the CPF website.
3. Link your CPF-IA to your chosen brokerage account (e.g. POEMS) for funds deduction.
4. Execute your trade on your brokerage and select CPF as the source of funds deduction.

To obtain your CPF-IA number, log in to your CPF portal and click on **my CPF > Investment**.



Investment dashboard

as at 08 Jun 2025

Available amount from Ordinary Account (OA)

\$ [Redacted]	\$ [Redacted]	\$ [Redacted]
For professionally managed products	For stocks	For gold

The red block below is where you can retrieve your CPF Investment Account number with your selected agent bank. This is the number you link into POEMS.

Summary for investment schemes

Latest investment transactions

as at 08 Jun 2025

CPFIS-OA

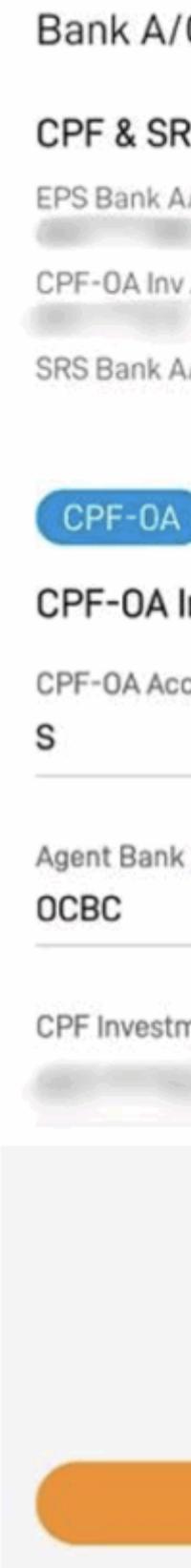
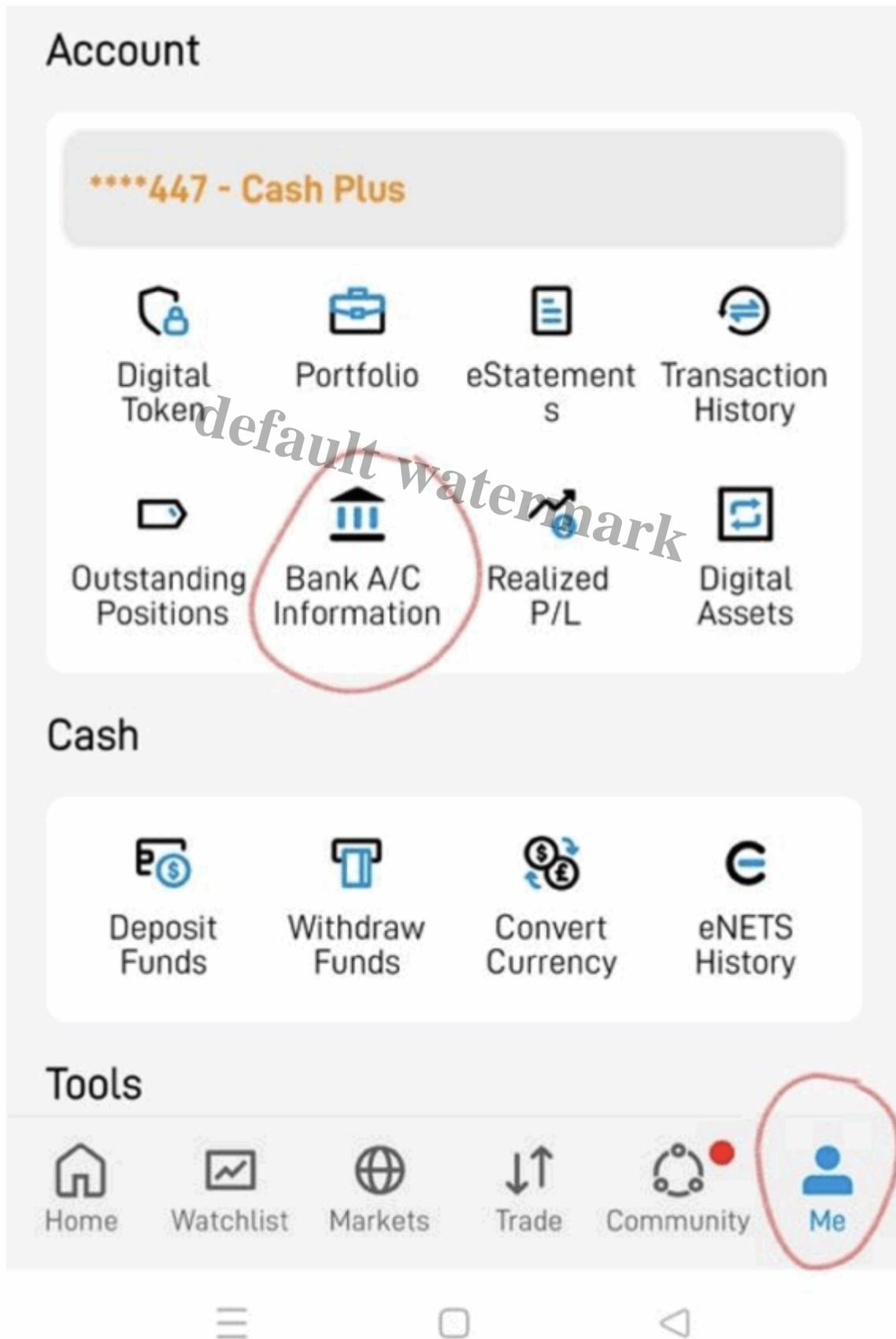
CPF Investment Scheme - Ordinary Account

Net amount used from OA \$ [Redacted] View explanation >	Agent bank OCBC Bank For information on your investment portfolio, please contact OCBC	CPF Investment Account number [Redacted]
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You will have to login to your POEMS account and click on **My Settings > My Account > Bank A/C Information**, where you can key in your details to complete the link.

The screenshot shows the POEMS website interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Announcement (16), Acct Mgmt, Order Status, Prices (LP1), Trade (LP2), US (Asian Hours), News & Research, and Charts. The 'Order Status' tab is active, and a sub-menu is open showing 'My Account' (Step 2) and 'Bank A/C Information' (Step 3). The 'Bank A/C Information' section is expanded, showing fields for EPS Bank A/C, Giro Bank A/C, CPF Inv A/C, and SRS Bank A/C. The values for these fields are redacted with black boxes. To the right, the corresponding bank names are listed: EPS Bank : OCBC, Giro Bank : OCBC, CPF Bank : OCBC, and SRS Bank : . At the bottom, there is a footer tagline: 'You have chosen to trade through CPF/SRS. Please fill in your information accordingly if investment details'.

How it looks on the desktop.



How it looks on the app.

For experienced CPF investors:

If you've already invested your CPF with another brokerage, the good news is that you're not limited to using just one broker. You can switch or rotate between several brokerages depending on platform access and fees.

To enjoy zero fees when investing your CPF funds through POEMS (like I did), you can jump straight to Step 3 and link your CPF-IA before executing your purchase order.

Beyond the first trade, if you prefer to automate your CPF-OA purchases and apply dollar-cost averaging, you can set up a Regular Savings Plan (RSP) on POEMS. This will automatically purchase fund units on the 7th of each month on your behalf.

How to automate your CPF investments with POEMS

If you prefer to have POEMS invest on your behalf regularly, you can set up a recurring CPF investment on POEMS in two ways.

Either click on "RSP" (instead of the "Buy" icon) on your preferred fund page itself, or head back to the Homepage, click on RSP, and set your preferred amount, frequency and fund source.

< Amundi Prime USA AS (C) SGD 
UT 565004
188.62 -1.1599 -0.61% Ind. NAV as of 05 Jun 2025

BUY SELL SWITCH RSP

Investment Amount 10,000

Payment Currency SGD

Fund Source CPFOA-IA

Dividend Option Reinvest

Account Number Cash Plus: ****447

Min. Investment Amount 100 SGD

Min. Sub Investment Amount 100 SGD

Sales Charge 0 %

This table is applicable for funds with CPFOA/CPFSA as fund source

Available Cash in Account 0 SGD

BUY ADD TO CART

< Apply Plan

Amundi Index MSCI Wo
UT 565001

RSP Amount (SGD)

Frequency

Min. RSP Investment Amou

RSP Sales Charge

Fund Source

Min. Initial Investment Requ

This table is applicable for f
fund source

Please see table below for trail
products:

 [What are trailer fees?](#)

Asset Class	Trailer (%) of
-------------	----------------

Equities

Balanced

SU



Make sure you check that your CPF has enough fees to avoid failed transaction processing costs charged by your bank!

CONCLUSION: Use POEMS for the lowest-cost access to US and international market funds for your CPF/SRS investments

In this day and age, retail investors like us are spoilt for choice, as various brokerages compete for our attention and business.

I'll admit that although I've had a POEMS account for years, I stopped using it when I switched to the new-age digital fintech brokerages in recent years. However, over the years, the limitations of these platforms became clearer to me:

- Limited market access – usually only the US, Hong Kong and Singapore included
- No CDP linkage – you can't hold your Singapore investments under your own CDP account

In response, POEMS has stepped up their game, becoming a brokerage that can compete head-to-head with these newer players, offering features that many of them still don't.

To top it off, [when it comes to investing my CPF, POEMS is hands-down the BEST option I've found.](#)

No other brokerage (or robo-advisors) comes close in terms of fees.

More importantly, aside from its low trading fees, **I also do not have to worry about paying any recurring platform fees or dividend handling fees.**

When it comes to a long-term investment like CPF, keeping your fees low is crucial; that's where POEMS truly shines.

Some of you may find that the platform interface takes a bit of getting used to, which is why I've included the step-by-step screenshots above to help guide you. The first time I executed my trade, it felt unfamiliar, but from the second trade onwards, it was much easier as I could navigate my way around now.

As the pioneer of online share trading in Singapore, POEMS also provides the benefit of local support centres all around Singapore as well as responsive contact helplines. No other broker offers such customer-centric support, where you can simply call in or walk in for assistance.

POEMS may be more popular among the older generation of investors, but have not been as aggressive in marketing themselves to the younger crowd. With this article, I hope that starts to change as you discover what makes POEMS the best for you.

Need help [signing up for your POEMS account](#) and making sure you get your sign-up reward bonuses?

Iâ??ve partnered with the POEMS team to offer **EXCLUSIVE SUPPORT to Budget Babe readers!** Quote â??BUDGETBABEâ?• when you [Whatsapp the team here at \(+65\) 88267126](#) !

Disclosure: This article was written in partnership with POEMS to ensure accuracy.

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Category

1. Investing

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