

How to Up Your Credit Card Game

Description

If you're not hacking the credit card game in Singapore to get free cash (back) or miles for money that you're already spending, it is about time you got on the bandwagon.



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I'm a huge advocate of credit cards because the way I see it, it is akin to someone coming up to you and giving you freebies (whether in the form of free cash or flight credits) on money that you're already spending anyway. Of course, just remember to pay off your bills on time, because late fees on overdue credit card payments and compound interest are one of the nastiest things ever!

Whether you prefer cold, hard cash or air miles, your best strategy is to find a card that works for you. I'll cover some of them here:

For those who want CASH BACK

First, [read this free guidebook to the best credit cards in Singapore](#) which I've written just a few months ago and **compare amongst the different cashback credit cards to find what works the best for your lifestyle and current spending habits.** For instance,

- If you dine out and pump petrol often, [the Citi Cash Back Card](#) might just be the best fit for you.
- Want a high cashback rate without any minimum monthly spend? Try [the HSBC Advance Card](#) (and get an additional 1% cashback if you're already banking with them).

HSBC Advance Credit Card Exclusive



S\$ 0
Min. Monthly Spend

1.5%
Cash Back
on local dining

S\$ 216
Annual Savings

Exclusive : Get \$150 cash back for new customers and \$100 cash back for existing customers

- Need one for your spending on public transport and groceries? The [Citibank SMRT Card](#) is the only cashback card that rewards you for travelling on the MRT or buses.
- [Which credit card\(s\) should you use for your wedding purchases?](#)
Got a big ticket spend coming up, such as your wedding or house renovation? Make sure you have either [the AMEX True Cashback Card](#) or [Standard Chartered's Unlimited Cashback Card](#). [I've reviewed both of them side-by-side in this previous post here as well.](#)

Standard Chartered Unlimited Credit Card Featured Product Exclusive



S\$ 30,000
Min. Annual Income

1.5%
Cash Back
on local dining

1.5%
Cash Back
on all spend

Exclusive : Receive \$150 cash and \$100 cash back for new customers. For existing customers, receive \$50 cash + \$20 cash back

American Express True Cashback Card Featured Product Exclusive



S\$ 30,000
Min. Annual Income

1.5%
Cash Back
on local dining

3%
Cash Back
on any spend for the first 6 months

Exclusive : Get \$150 CASH REWARDS and 3% cash back for both new and existing cardmembers

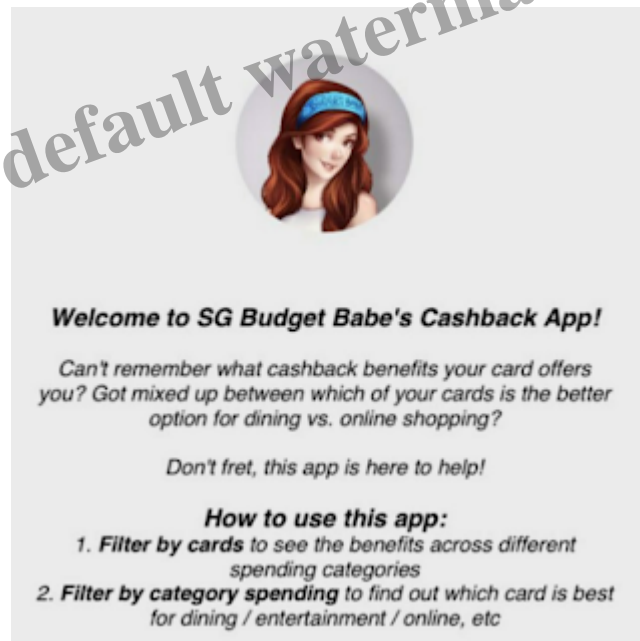
Next, **select and sign up for the cards that fit you the best while maximising the welcome gifts.** While there are often different sign-up bonuses offered by the banks, my personal preference is to always go through SingSaver instead because I get more rewards that way as their model involves sharing the affiliate costs with the user (aka you and me).

This is in contrast to when you sign up with the salesperson at a bank or a roadshow, because the salesperson gets a cash commission of \$60 or up for every successful application, and obviously none of that incentive goes to you (now you know why they can be so persistent sometimes!). Having said that, I'm not adverse to signing up at roadshows if the incentive is good enough (such as a free Samsonite luggage, etc)!

Make sure you compare and shop around to get the best credit card rewards for your welcome gift! There are some compelling promotions ongoing right now, such as:

- [American Express True Cashback Card](#) : get \$150 cash and enjoy 3% bonus cashback for your first 6 months. Perfect for newly-engaged couples who are about to pay their wedding vendors, or couples with housing renovations due!
- [Standard Chartered's Unlimited Cashback Card](#): get \$150 cash upfront if you're a new customer, \$50 if you're an existing SC user
- [Citibank SMRT Card](#) and [Citi Cash Back Card](#): get \$150 NTUC vouchers upfront!
- [HSBC Advance Card](#) : get \$150 cash for new customers, or \$100 if you're already an existing customer

Once you've received your credit card(s) and the welcome rewards, if you need a tool to help you track and remember which cashback credit card to swipe for which category, try this [free SGBB Cashback App](#) – which I developed with fellow readers as a passion side project to manage multiple cashback credit cards and stay on top of the game! It is available for both iPhone and Android users, and no, I really don't get a single cent (nor your personal data, since none is collected nor asked from you) from this whether you decide to use it or not!




For those who want MILES

If you prefer collecting miles so that you can redeem free flights for your next holiday instead, I've reviewed [some of the best miles credit cards in a previous post here](#) with my friend, the MileLion. Did you know that **you can also bypass the exclusion clauses which dictate that you cannot earn miles for mandatory spending** on your insurance and income tax? Through [this nifty hack called CardUp](#), you can actually clock miles for paying off these bills that you cannot run away from and never got to enjoy any rewards on previously!

I'm by no means a miles expert, but **as a general rule of thumb I look out for miles credit cards that do not require any minimum spend each month + offer a rate that's at least 1.2 miles per \$1 spent locally**. That's why I'm not the biggest fan of [the Standard Chartered Visa Infinite Card](#), which

only gives you 1.4 mpd IF you spend the minimum of \$2000...otherwise, be prepared to get only \$1 mpd realistically.

Standard Chartered Visa Infinite Credit Card **Exclusive**



S\$ 25
Conversion Fee

3 miles
Air miles
on overseas
spending


1.4 miles
Air miles
on local spending

Exclusive : Get \$150 cash for new customers and \$50 cash for existing customers.
Also a choice of (1) 35,000 welcome miles or (2) 15,000 welcome miles & 28" Samsonite Lite Shock Spinner
• Enjoy 1-for-1 Dining Privileges at selected restaurants with The Good Life®

Instead, I prefer the the following miles credit cards:

- [Maybank Horizon Visa](#) : 3.2 miles for each \$1 spent on dining, petrol, taxi fares and Agoda hotel bookings

Maybank Horizon Visa Signature Card **Welcome Gift**



S\$ 25
Conversion Fee


2 miles
Air miles
on overseas spend

3.2 miles
Air miles
on local spend

Welcome Gift : Receive a Samsonite Duffel Luggage worth \$420. Terms and conditions apply.

- [UOB PRVI Miles](#) : 1.4 miles per \$1 spent, with no minimum monthly spend or max. cap on miles earned, making it perfect as a general spending card

UOB PRVI Miles World MasterCard Card **Welcome Gift**



S\$ 25
Conversion Fee

2.4 miles
Air miles
on overseas
spending

1.4 miles
Air miles
on local spending

Welcome Gift : Receive up to 10,000 welcome miles, only available for online application

- [Citi PremierMiles](#) : for its generous welcome bonus of 30,000 miles and 1.2 miles per \$1 spent locally. Also get \$150 of NTUC vouchers upfront.
- [American Express Krisflyer Ascend](#) : gives you 3.2 miles for every \$1 spend on Grab rides (max. \$200 per month), making it the best miles card for this category. Also get \$150 cash upfront when you apply!

American Express Singapore Airlines KrisFlyer Ascend Credit Card 



S\$ 0
Conversion Fee

2 miles
Air miles
on overseas
spending

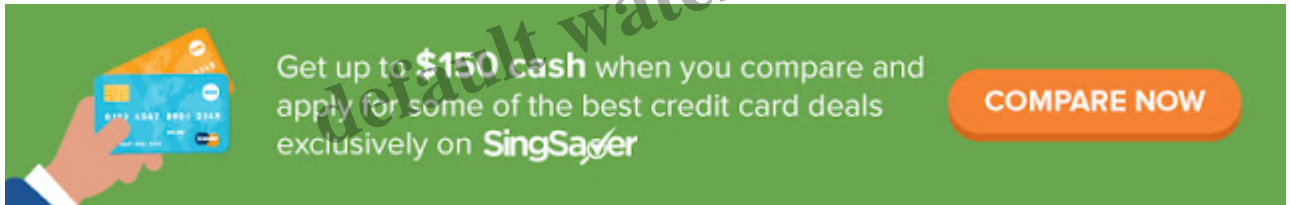
1.2 miles
Air miles
on local spending

Exclusive : Get **\$150 CASH REWARDS** for both new and existing cardmembers. Inclusive of up to 43,000 KrisFlyer miles

I generally ignore the cards for overseas spending, because as attractive as 3 mpd (on SC Visa Infinite) sounds, that comes with a hefty 3.5% foreign exchange fee. No thanks, I'd rather use my [DBS Multi-Currency Account \(review here\)](#) for such overseas spending instead.

So go on and compare, and make sure you get on the credit card bandwagon for its world of free cash, welcome gifts and air miles! There's a lot more benefits to be claimed for money you're already spending, so don't stick to cash payments or you'll be missing out on all of these.

Just don't forget to pay off your credit card bills on time ?
With love,
Budget Babe



Get up to **\$150 cash** when you compare and apply for some of the best credit card deals exclusively on **SingSaver**

COMPARE NOW

Category

- 1. Credit Cards
- 2. Savings