



# U.S. CREDIT BUILDING

## Guide

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# U.S. CREDIT BUILDING

## Intro

Who hasn't heard about it? U.S. Entrepreneurs only flying business or first class, almost for free, just by using their card for expenses they'd have anyway? Sounds too good to be true but it is the reality!

US Credit Cards are by far the most attractive ones globally, with the most superior points and rewards system.

Comparing foreign cards e.g. European ones to US Cards is like Night & Day.

The good news? Through the right system and strategy even U.S. non residents can start to build a US Credit Score and ultimately get their hands on one of these precious cards.

The following conditions make the U.S. Financial System a no-brainer for any international entrepreneur and business owner:

- Up to 5x points per \$
- No foreign exchange fees
- Extremely high welcome bonuses
- Attractive Redemption Options: Way better Transfer Conditions
- Huge Credit lines / High limits
- Get Funding from banks



# WHO CAN BENEFIT?

US credit cards aren't just a financial tool—they're a strategic asset for various types of individuals and businesses. Here's who can benefit the most:

## 1. Entrepreneurs and Business Owners

- Access higher credit limits compared to many international cards.
- Take advantage of business-specific cards with perks like advertising credits, free software subscriptions, or cash back on business expenses.
- Build a US credit profile, which can be useful for securing loans or partnerships in the US market.

## 2. Digital Nomads

- Enjoy worldwide acceptance of US credit cards with zero currency conversion fees, making international transactions seamless.
- Benefit from travel rewards like free flights, hotel stays, or cashback, which reduce travel expenses.
- Protect your finances with advanced fraud protection, especially useful when traveling to multiple countries.

## 3. Investors

- Leverage credit cards to manage short-term liquidity while keeping investments intact.
- Use rewards and cashback to offset expenses or reinvest into your portfolio.
- Access funding through U.S. credit lines without liquidating investments.
- Gain access to exclusive financial perks like priority access to investment opportunities or travel lounges.

## 4. Non-US Residents

- Access U.S. credit cards and financial tools – even without living in the U.S.
- Unlock higher limits and much better terms than the European Financial System offers
- Benefit from higher acceptance rates for international purchases and subscriptions.
- Avoid currency exchange fees by paying in USD directly when traveling or making online purchases.
- Access significantly higher credit limits and funding options

## 5. Frequent Travelers

- Earn miles and points for flights and hotels, saving significant travel costs.
- Access travel perks like complimentary lounge access, travel insurance, or priority boarding.
- Avoid foreign transaction fees with cards designed for international use.



# HOW TO QUALIFY AS A NON-RESIDENT



## OBTAIN AN ITIN (INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER)

If you don't have a Social Security Number (SSN), many US banks will accept an ITIN instead.



## ESTABLISH A US ADDRESS

A US mailing address is required by most banks. Ensure this address can receive your credit card and statements.



## CHOOSE THE RIGHT CREDIT CARD ISSUER

Focus on issuers that are known to accept non-residents, such as: AmEx, Chase, BofA, Citi, Capital One and Discover



## OPEN A US BANK ACCOUNT

While not always required, having a US bank account can increase your chances of approval and simplify payments.



## BUILD YOUR US CREDIT PROFILE

If you are new to US credit, start small, e. g. start with secured cards (deposit)



## PREPARE FOR KYC

Banks will require documentation (e. g. Passport, Proof of US address, ITIN etc.) to verify your identity and financial situation.



## APPLY STRATEGICALLY

Avoid applying for multiple cards at once; this can hurt your approval chances. It can make sense to start with secured cards first.



# ADVANTAGES OF U.S. CREDIT CARDS

## 1. Global Acceptance

- US credit cards, especially those issued by major networks like Visa, Mastercard, and American Express, are widely accepted worldwide.
- This makes them ideal for international purchases, travel, and online subscriptions, eliminating the need for multiple local cards.

## 2. Access to Reward Programs

- Many US credit cards offer attractive reward programs, including:
  - **Travel Rewards:** Earn points or miles that can be redeemed for flights, hotels, or upgrades.
  - **Cashback:** Receive a percentage of your purchases as cashback, often up to 5%.
  - **Loyalty Perks:** Exclusive benefits for airlines, hotels, or retail brands (e.g., free nights, elite status).
  - **Get Points:** Some cards offer 3–5 points for every dollar spent in a specific expense category

## 3. No Foreign Transaction Fees

- Several US credit cards are designed for international users, waiving foreign transaction fees.
- This means significant savings on international purchases, as no extra percentage is added to currency conversion.



#### **4. Higher Credit Limits**

- US credit cards often offer more generous credit limits compared to cards issued in other countries.
- This is especially beneficial for entrepreneurs, businesses, or investors who require larger spending capacity.

#### **5. Build a US Credit History**

- Using a US credit card responsibly helps establish and build your US credit profile.
- A good US credit score can open doors to better financial products, loans, and investment opportunities in the future.

#### **6. Fraud Protection**

- US credit cards come with advanced fraud protection mechanisms:
  - Zero liability for unauthorized charges.
  - Real-time transaction alerts.
  - Secure online payment systems.
- These features provide peace of mind when shopping internationally or online.



## **7. Travel Perks**

- Many premium US credit cards offer exceptional travel benefits, such as:
  - Complimentary lounge access at airports worldwide.
  - Travel insurance, including trip cancellation and lost luggage coverage.
  - Priority boarding and discounts on travel bookings.

## **8. Easy Currency Management**

- Pay directly in USD for international transactions without conversion hassles.
- Avoid fluctuating exchange rates and additional currency fees.

## **9. Business Benefits**

- For entrepreneurs and businesses, US credit cards provide tailored solutions:
  - Cards designed for business expenses with tools to manage spending.
  - Rewards specific to business categories like office supplies, advertising, and shipping.
  - Monthly reports to streamline bookkeeping and tax preparation.



# COMMON CHALLENGES



Lack of a Social Security Number (SSN)



No Established U.S. Credit History



KYC (Know Your Customer) Requirements



Currency Exchange Fees and Foreign Transaction Costs



High Initial Barriers for Premium Cards



Each challenge might seem like a roadblock, but with the right approach, they can be easily overcome.

Let us guide you through the solutions and unlock the benefits of the U.S. Financial System.



# FAQ

- **Can I get a US credit card without a Social Security Number (SSN)?**
  - Yes, many issuers accept an ITIN (Individual Taxpayer Identification Number) as an alternative to an SSN. Some cards, such as secured credit cards or those from fintech companies, may not require an SSN at all.
- **Do I need a US address to apply?**
  - Yes, most banks require a US address. You can use a friend or family member's address or opt for a mail forwarding service to receive your card and statements.
- **What is the best US credit card for non-residents?**
  - It depends on your needs. For building credit, secured cards like Discover Secured are great. For rewards, cards like Chase Sapphire Preferred or Capital One Venture are ideal. Look for cards that waive foreign transaction fees. [You can also check here.](#)
- **Will applying for a US credit card affect my home country's credit score?**
  - No, US credit cards are part of a separate credit system. Activity on your US credit card will not impact your credit score in your home country unless linked through global credit systems like Amex Global Transfer.
- **How can I build a US credit score from scratch?**
  - Start with a secured credit card or become an authorized user on someone else's card. Consistent payments and low credit utilization will help you build a strong credit score over time.



- **Are US credit cards worth it for non-residents?**
  - Absolutely! They offer unparalleled global acceptance, rewards, and opportunities to build a US credit profile, which can be useful for future investments or financial needs in the US.
- **Do I need a US bank account to pay my credit card bill?**
  - Not necessarily. Many issuers allow payments from international bank accounts or fintech platforms like Wise or Payoneer.
- **Can I use a US credit card internationally?**
  - Yes, most US credit cards work globally. Look for cards with no foreign transaction fees to save on international purchases.
- **What happens if I don't use my US credit card regularly?**
  - Some issuers may close inactive accounts after a long period of inactivity. Regular, small purchases can help keep the account active and maintain your credit score.
- **What should I do if my US credit card application is denied?**
  - Check the reasons for denial, such as missing documentation or insufficient credit history. Address these issues and reapply, or start with a secured credit card to build your profile.
- **Can I transfer my existing credit history to the US?**
  - In some cases, yes. Programs like American Express Global Transfer allow you to transfer your credit history from your home country to the US, making it easier to get approved.



- **Are there any hidden fees I should be aware of?**
  - Always check for annual fees, late payment fees, foreign transaction fees, and interest rates. Choosing a card with no hidden fees can save you money.
- **How long does it take to get approved for a US credit card?**
  - Approval timelines vary by issuer. Some cards offer instant approval, while others may take a few days to verify your documents.
- **Can I upgrade my US credit card later?**
  - Yes, many issuers allow you to upgrade to a better card once you've established credit or meet income requirements.
- **What happens if I cancel my US credit card?**
  - Canceling a card can impact your credit score, especially if it's your oldest account. Consider keeping it open with minimal usage instead of closing it.
- **Is there a limit to how many US credit cards I can have?**
  - There's no set limit, but applying for multiple cards in a short time can lower your credit score temporarily due to hard inquiries. Manage your applications wisely.



**START YOUR JOURNEY WITH US**

## **Contact Us Today**



**+49 151 2022 6998**



**info@globalfreedomssolutions.com**



**www.globalfreedomssolutions.com**