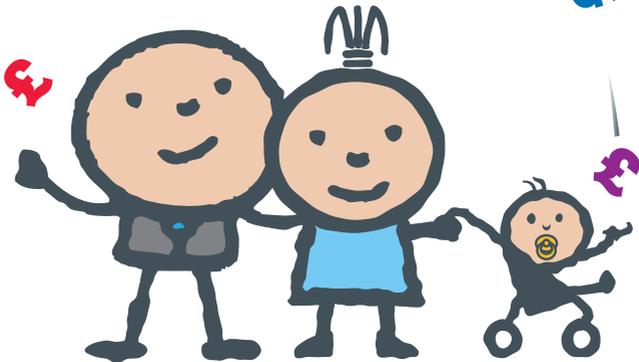


A
consumer's
guide to
credit unions
in Cambridge



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What is a credit union?

A credit union is a financial cooperative that is owned by its members and is usually run by volunteers.

All credit unions are registered with the Financial Services Authority (FSA). They:

- Help their members to save regularly
- Make small loans to members
- Offer accounts to help members manage their money
- Help people in their local communities to benefit from their services

How is a credit union different from a bank?

Credit unions work for the benefit of their members. They promote thrift by offering information on money management and budgeting, and provide credit at competitive rates.

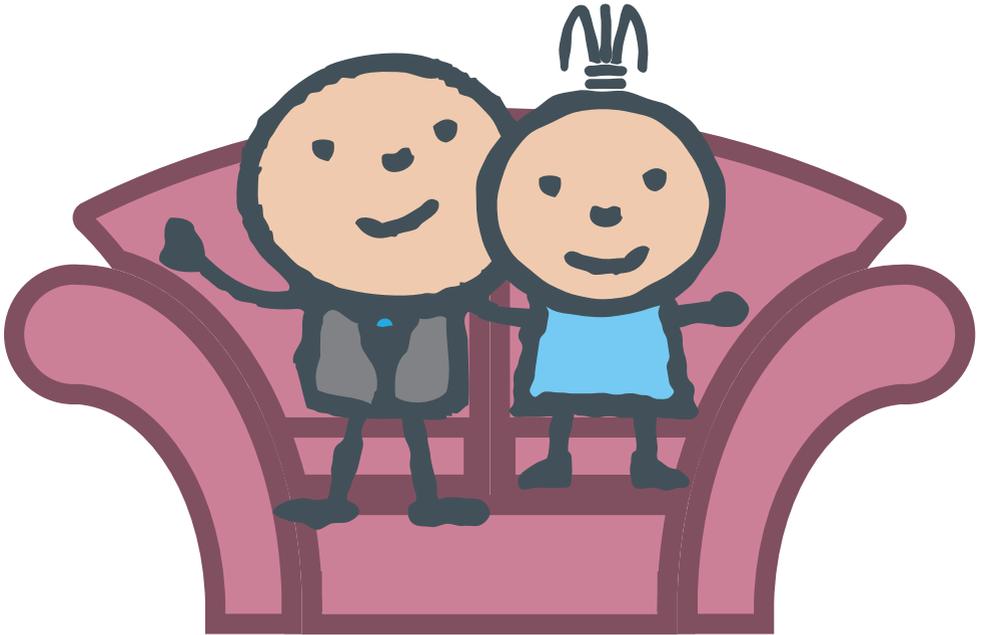
Based on data from the World Council of Credit Unions, at the end of 2010 there were 52,945 credit unions in 100 countries around the world.

Do I need to be a regular saver?

When you join a credit union, you're expected to save regularly: a small amount every week is much better than large amounts at irregular intervals. Interest is not paid on savings, but if the credit union makes a surplus, the amount is divided amongst its members and paid out as a dividend.

Credit unions are an excellent way to help you save for a 'rainy day'. Members save for anything where you need your savings to be safe and you won't be tempted to spend them.





Loans

Once you've been saving for a certain time, usually a matter of weeks, you can apply for a loan. You can borrow money for things like school uniforms, Christmas, holidays, a new washing machine or car and special events like weddings. Your savings record acts as an assurance that you are able to repay the loan. The rate of interest is set by each individual credit union, so make sure you get this information when you apply.

Is my money secure?

Credit Unions are authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority, and savings are fully covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, so you can be sure your money is safe and protected by law.

How can I join a local credit union?

There are two credit unions in Cambridge. You will have to provide proof of identity and address in order to become a member. Anyone over 18 can join as a full member, and there are junior accounts for under-18s, which can be opened free of charge.



Cambridge City Credit Union

Limited: To become a member you have to either

live or work in the city of Cambridge. It costs just **£1** to join and open an account.



Cambridge Rainbow Savers

Savers: Anyone who lives and/or works within Cambridgeshire can join. You pay a one-off joining fee of **£3** and an initial **£1** savings deposit (**£4.00 in total**).

Where do I find my local credit unions?

There are two credit unions in Cambridge:



Cambridge Rainbow Savers

Web www.rainbowsaver.co.uk

Email mail@rainbowsaver.co.uk

Phone 01502 584 854

Cambridge City Credit Union Ltd

Web www.cambridgecreditunion.org.uk

Email info@cambridgecreditunion.org.uk

Phone 01223 861 772

Information on both credit unions is available at:

**Cambridge City Council Customer Services Centre,
Mandela House, Regent Street, Cambridge CB2 1BY**

You can find out how you can become a volunteer for one of the credit unions at:

www.cam-volunteer.org.uk

Cambridge Rainbow Savers is a trading name of Rainbow Saver Anglia Credit Union Limited  Registered Office: 229 London Road South, Lowestoft NR33 0DS  Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Services Authority. FRN 213617  Registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965 as a credit union. Register No. 583C  Eligible deposits are protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme 

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