

Credit scores demystified

Did you know that debt, when approached sensibly,

This is because it shows that you are capable of managing money.

70%

of Americans have at least one credit card¹

In May 2017, the average credit score hit

700

—the highest since such information was first tracked¹

How is your credit score determined? Most agencies use one of two scoring systems: FICO or VantageScore. Both of these models use a scoring system of **300-850** with the latter being a perfect score.

The **higher your score**, the higher your chances of being **at a good rate** with favorable terms.



Because credit scores don't carry from their country of origin to the U.S., you'll most likely be **starting from scratch**.



If you're new to the U.S., you'll be able to open a bank account and get a debit card, but you might **not qualify for a credit card** because of your lack of credit score.

Here are some steps that you can take to



Make the most of existing relationships with international banks

You might be able to open an account with the same bank in the U.S. and even take your existing credit score with you.



Apply for cards aimed at internationals

Many banks offer credit cards from your home country that you can use overseas without incurring a fee.



Build credit through renting

Some landlords report tenants' payments to the credit bureaus, who will in turn create a file to document these.

Visit [us.hsbc.com](https://www.hsbc.com) for additional information



¹ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/credit-scores-hit-record-high-as-recession-wounds-heal-1496055600>