

What is a Bank Account?

A bank account is a financial account with a banking company, recording the financial transactions between a customer and the bank and the resulting financial position of the customer with the bank. It is an arrangement whereby you may place your deposit under the safekeeping of your bank or deposit taking financial institutions. The bank as financial intermediary channelize these funds in productive resources and banks may pay remuneration out of profit they earn on your deposits. Bank accounts can help you manage your everyday money.

Types of Bank Accounts

Banking institutions may offer a broad range of bank account types. By learning different account categories, you can work out the choices that suit your personal needs. The following are some of the accounts that banks offer that women can consider based upon their unique requirements:

1. Basic Banking Account (BBA)

In order to broaden the access of financial services to under privileged and to facilitate and provide basic banking facilities to the low income people in Pakistan, all commercial banks offer Basic Banking Accounts (BBA) facility. The main features of this account are:

Features of Basic Banking Account

- The account is opened with an amount of PKR 1,000/- as an Initial Deposit.
- There is no minimum balance requirement.
- There are no monthly account maintenance charges on this product.
- If more than two debit transactions are carried out by the Customer during a calendar month then the transaction charges will be applied on each debit transaction as per the latest SOBC.
- This is a non-profit bearing and chequing account.
- This product is available in PKR only.
- ADCs services are available.
- Account will be closed by the Bank if there is no balance in the account for a continuous period of six months.
- Maximum two Customer-initiated chequing withdrawals through cash/ clearing (i total two) transactions are allowed per month except for ATM withdrawals and system generated debit transactions.
- If more than two Customer-initiated debit transactions are executed during a calendar month, transaction charges as per the latest SOBC will be applied.
- Unlimited free of charge ATM withdrawals from the Bank's own ATMs are allowed. However, ATM card issuance/ renewal fee will be recovered annually as per the latest SOBC.

- In case of withdrawal through the ATM machines of other banks, the respective bank will recover charges for such transactions.
- Statement of Account will be issued annually.

2. Current Account

Current Accounts are non-profit bearing accounts primarily meant for Customers who execute numerous banking transactions on a daily basis. Customers can deposit and withdraw any amount of money from such accounts as many times as they require and may also avail an overdraft/ finance facility.

Features of Current Account

- The minimum monthly average balance requirement is PKR 5,000/-.
- The minimum initial deposit requirement is equal to the minimum monthly balance requirement.
- There are no monthly account maintenance charges.
- This is a non-profit bearing and chequing account.
- This product is available in PKR, USD, GBP and EURO.
- Alternative Delivery Channels (ADCs) services are available.
- Statement of Account is issued semi-annually.
- Zakat deduction is not applicable on current accounts.
- Unlimited Transactions

3. PLS Savings Account

PLS Savings Accounts are profit-bearing accounts meant to promote the habit of savings among the Customers while allowing them to use their funds when required. Customers can deposit any amount of money, any number of times. However, fund withdrawals are subject to certain restrictions. Women can benefit from savings account as they offer a wide variety of benefits.

Features of Savings Account

- This is a profit bearing and chequing account.
- This product is available in PKR, USD, GB and EURO.
- ADCs services are available.
- The profit is calculated on the basis of average balance during a month.
- The profit is payable on six monthly basis and is credited to the respective accounts on 30th June and 31st December.

4.Term/Fixed Deposit Account

An account which is opened for a particular fixed period (time) by depositing particular amount (money) is known as Fixed (Term) Deposit Account. The term 'fixed deposit' means that the deposit is fixed and is repayable only after a specific period is over. The money deposited in this account cannot be withdrawn before the expiry of period.

Features of Fixed Deposit Account

- The main purpose of fixed deposit account is to enable the individuals to earn a higher rate of interest on their surplus funds (extra money).
- The amount can be deposited only once. For further such deposits, separate accounts need to be opened.
- The period of fixed deposits range between 1 year to 10 years.
- A high interest rate is paid on fixed deposits
- Withdrawals are not allowed. However, in case of emergency, banks allow premature encashment on the expense of a penalty.

5.Foreign Currency Accounts

As a special facility, you can open accounts in foreign currency in addition to PKR deposits. Accounts denominated in US Dollar, GBP and Euro are allowed to be opened by financial institutions operating in Pakistan. You can withdraw the amount either in Pak Rupee at current exchange rate or in the denominated currency.

Features of FCY Accounts

- Deposits only in foreign currency.
- No restriction on transfer of funds to any country abroad.
- Profit is paid to the foreign currency depositors.
- Traveler cheque and other remittances can be obtained by debit to the account at current exchange rate.
- Credit card facility can be obtained by the account holders to the extent of the balances held in their respective accounts, for utilization in and outside Pakistan.
- Holders of foreign currency accounts are free to transfer their accounts from one Authorized Dealer to another.
- Banks may recover reasonable charges on handling cash transactions in foreign currencies received into or paid out of such accounts.
- The non-residents are exempted from payment of withholding tax and compulsory deduction of Zakat.

**Terms & conditions apply*