

Case study 2

Georgetown University Alumni & Student Federal Credit Union

The **Georgetown University Alumni and Student Federal Credit Union** (or GUASFCU) is a credit union headquartered in Washington, DC, chartered and regulated under the authority of the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) of the US federal government. GUASFCU is the nation's largest entirely student-run credit union both in asset size (over \$15m) and in membership (over 11,000 accounts). Its current membership base is split between students and alumni, with over 70 percent of the Georgetown community holding accounts.

Mission

GUASFCU's purpose is to provide financial services for its members. These services include savings accounts, loan facilities and checking accounts. To open a savings account, students are required to provide \$10 as their initial deposit (which also acts as their share in the business). Membership of the credit union is restricted to:

- Current Georgetown University students
- Georgetown University alumni
- Immediate family members of alumni and students

The credit union has a strong commitment to philanthropic initiatives, supporting a program called 'Common \$ense', a financial literacy project for the students of the university.¹

Beginnings

The vast majority of the capital needed to establish the credit union was raised by the students, who pledged approximately \$500,000 in deposits. The rest of the capital, some \$100,000, was provided by the university in the form of a certificate of deposit.² The credit union quickly grew and celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2008.

Sources: http://www.guasfcu.com/about_information.php

http://www.guasfcu.com/about_history.php

¹ The credit union also supports a number of other philanthropic endeavours:

http://www.guasfcu.com/about_philanthropy.php.

² The university essentially opened a savings account with the credit union, the difference being that a certificate of deposit has a fixed time period that it can be held in the credit union (say 6 months) while a savings account can be indefinite.

