



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Who can claim Universal Credit

**Easy
Read**



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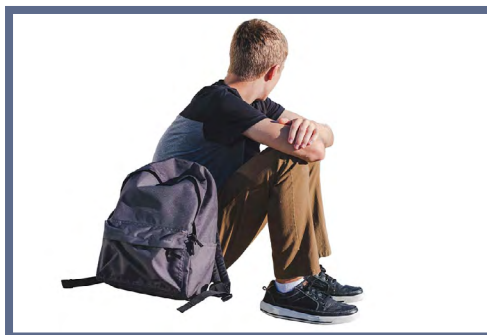
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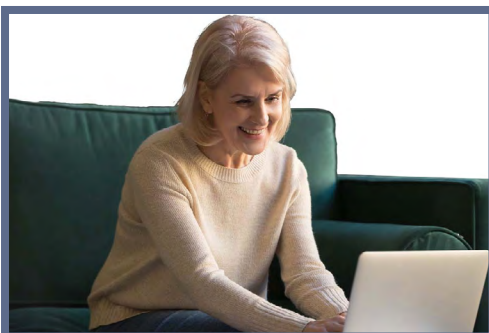
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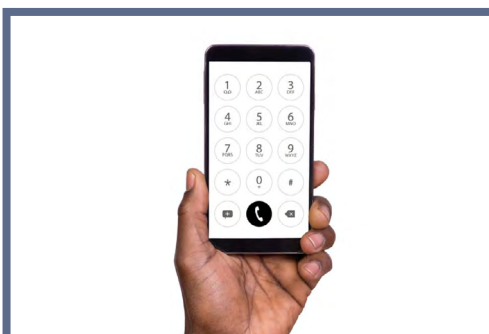
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1

Introduction



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Universal Credit is a benefit from the Department for Work and Pensions.



It helps pay your daily living costs.

UC *Universal
Credit*



You may be able to get Universal Credit if:

- You are out of work
- You are in work and have low earnings.



Most new benefit claims will be for Universal Credit.



This leaflet gives information to **see if you can claim** Universal Credit.

Where you live



To get Universal Credit, you have to live in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales.

For more information about Universal Credit and where you live, go to www.gov.uk/universal-credit

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Who can claim Universal Credit

18+



In most cases, you have to be 18 years old or over to claim Universal Credit.

66+



You cannot claim Universal Credit if you have reached State Pension age.

State Pension age for men and women is 66 years old.

**£16,000
or less**



You can also claim Universal Credit if, together, you and your partner have savings of £16,000 or less.

Other benefits you may be able to get



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If you have worked in the last 2 to 3 years, you may also be able to get other benefits.



jobcentreplus

Department for
Work and Pensions

If you are no longer working you may be able to get New Style Jobseeker's Allowance.



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Pensions

If you cannot work due to an illness or disability you may be able to get New Style Employment and Support Allowance.

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If you are 16 or 17 years old

You may be able to claim Universal Credit when you are 16 or 17 years old if:



You do not have **parental support** and you are not under the care of a local authority.



Explanation

If you do not have **parental support** this means:

- You do not live with your parents, and
- You might not get any money from your parents
- You might not be in contact with your parents.



You are the carer of a severely disabled person.



You are the main carer of a child.

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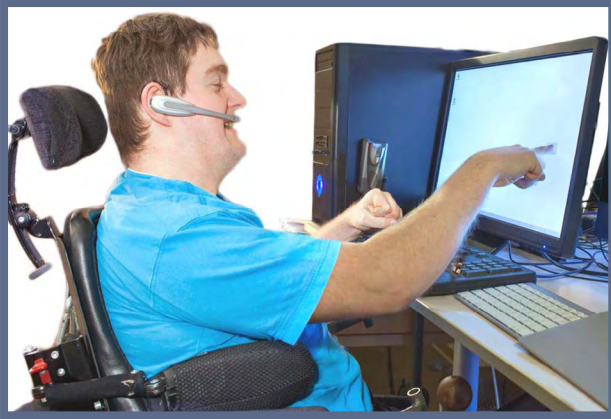


You have a child with a partner who can get Universal Credit.



You are either:

- pregnant and will have your baby in 11 weeks or less
- have had your baby in the last 15 weeks.



You have **limited capability** to work.

This means that your ability to work is limited by your health.



You are waiting for a **Work Capability Assessment** and have medical evidence.



Explanation

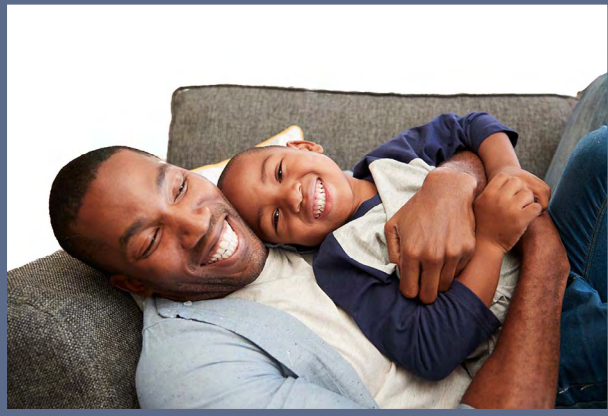
A **Work Capability Assessment** is how the Department for Work and Pensions check if you are able to work.

We will send you a form with questions you must answer. You may have to attend a meeting with us after this.

For more information about Work Capability Assessments, go to www.gov.uk/government/publications/capability-for-work-questionnaire

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If you have children



You may be able to claim Universal Credit if you have children.



The number of children you have **will not affect** if you can or cannot get Universal Credit.



The number of children you have **can affect** how much money you get.

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If you live with your partner



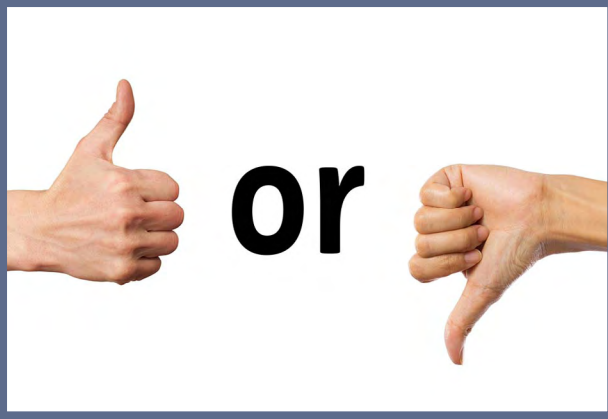
You may be able to claim Universal Credit if you live with your partner.



If you claim Universal Credit, your partner will need to claim with you.



Your partner's income and savings **can change** how much money you get.



This will happen even if your partner can or cannot get Universal Credit.

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If you are training or study full-time

You may be able to claim Universal Credit when training or studying full-time if you:

**18-21
years old**



- Are between 18 and 21 years old



- Do not have **parental support** and you are not under the care of a local authority



- Are studying a course in further education.

For more information, go to www.gov.uk/further-education-courses

Other reasons you may be able to get Universal Credit when training or studying full-time

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You live with a partner who can get Universal Credit.



You are the main carer of a child.

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You have a child with a partner who can get Universal Credit.



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You have a disability and get (or could get) other benefits, such as:

- Disability Living Allowance
- Personal Independence Payment.

For more information on Personal Independence Payment, go to www.gov.uk

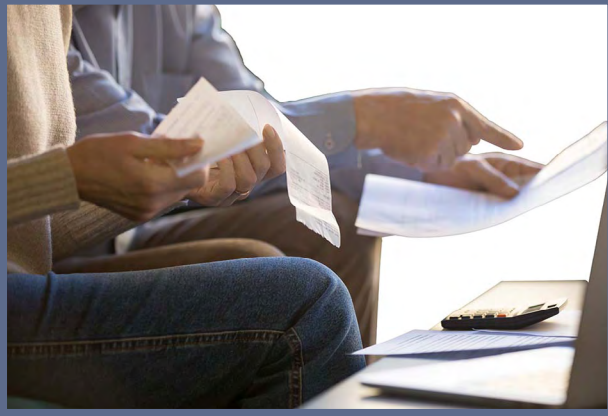
Search for **Easy Read Personal Independence Payment**.



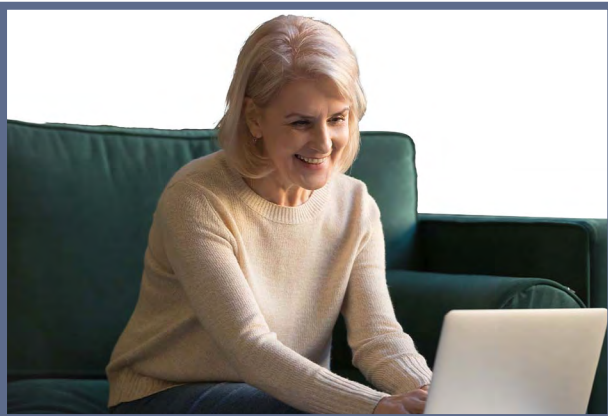
You must get one of these benefits **and** already be confirmed as having limited capability to work.

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If you have a partner and one of you is State Pension age



You and your partner may be able to claim Universal Credit as a couple.



One of you must be 65 years old or under and be able to get Universal Credit.

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You can get Universal Credit until you both reach State Pension age.



If you cannot get Universal Credit, you can use a benefits calculator to see what other help you may be able to get.

For more information about benefit calculators, go to www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators

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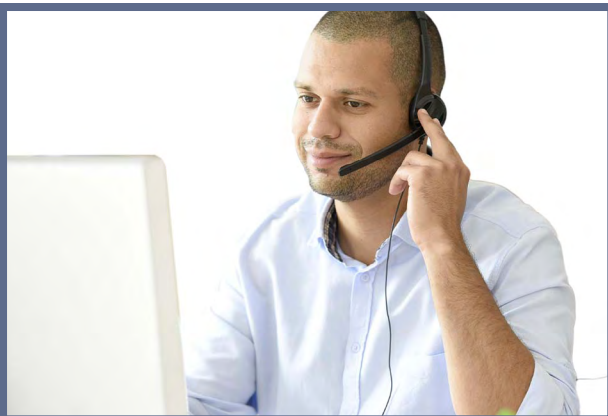
Contact us



Most people contact Universal Credit using our online service.



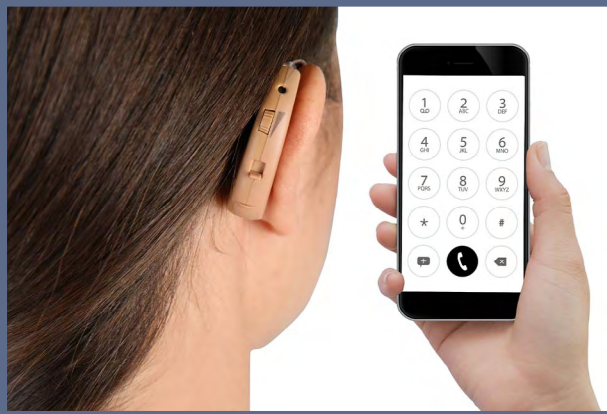
You may have a disability that means you cannot use a computer.



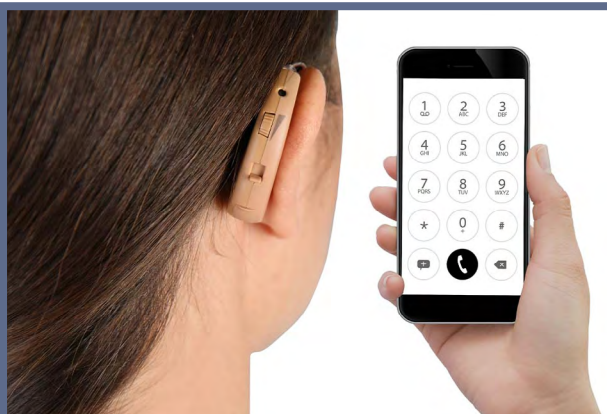
If you need support and cannot access our online service, please contact the **Universal Credit helpline.**



This helpline is open Monday - Friday,
8am to 6pm.



Telephone: **0800 328 5644**
Textphone: **0800 328 1344**



Welsh Language Telephone:
0800 328 1744



If you are deaf and use British Sign Language you may be able to use the **Video Relay Service** (known as VRS).



If you cannot hear or speak on the phone, use Relay UK:

18001 then **0800 328 5644**

Relay UK used to be known as Next Generation Text (NGT).

For more information about who to contact, go to www.gov.uk/universal-credit/contact-universal-credit

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