

# Youth Jobs Grant Employer FAQs

Last updated 29 June 2026

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This document is intended as a quick reference and will be regularly updated when we have new questions from Employers where it would be helpful to publicise the answer.

Where there are discrepancies between this and the Grant Terms and Conditions, the Terms and Conditions shall apply.

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When new questions are added we will update this table:

Question	Added
[New Question]	[Date]

# 1. Who can apply?

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## Who can apply for the grant?

Employers of any size, including sole traders intending to hire, can apply for the grant. They must:

- be operating in Great Britain (England, Scotland & Wales)
- have been trading for at least 6 months before registering a vacancy
- be registered with HMRC, with a UTR and PAYE scheme
- not be part of a central government department. This includes government departments, executive agencies and non departmental public bodies. Jobs with Local Authorities and other non central public sector organisations are eligible.

## What checks will happen?

DWP will check the employer meets scheme requirements including HMRC registration, tax information and employer declarations, including areas such as insurance, compliance history, trading continuity, employment obligations and health and safety.

DWP will also check job vacancies for eligibility and suitability before they are registered to the scheme.

## Which young people are eligible for the scheme?

Young people can only be recruited via Universal Credit, you cannot recruit your own people and then claim the grant. To be eligible a young person must be:

- aged 18–24
- claiming Universal Credit and unemployed for at least six months
- not be currently eligible for the Jobs Guarantee

## Can apprenticeship grants and the Youth Jobs Grant be used for the same employee?

Yes, the Youth Jobs Grant may be layered with additional payments for eligible apprenticeships (including the hiring payment for non-levy employers, additional payments for young apprentices, and additional payments for foundation apprenticeships). An employer can enrol a vacancy on to the Youth Jobs Grant and receive the grant payment for job roles filled as apprenticeships.

## Can the Youth Jobs Grant be used for the employee on work Experience or Sector Based Work Academy schemes?

Claimants who have previously undertaken Work Experience (WEX) or Sector Based Work Academy (SWAP) will still be considered for YJG opportunities. But participation in WEX or a SWAP does not qualify as a YJG job, as these placements do not meet the requirement for paid employment.

Where WEX or SWAP opportunities are delivered as unpaid or short-term work-focused activity, claimants may move on to a YJG opportunity where this is appropriate and they meet the relevant criteria, including earnings requirements.

## 2. Job requirements

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### What makes a job suitable for the grant?

Jobs that can be registered for the scheme must:

- be genuine, paid work of at least 25 hours per week, lasting at least 4 months
- pay at least the applicable National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage
- be lawful, safe, suitable and comparable to roles offered outside the scheme
- not displace existing employees, workers, apprentices or contractors

### Can a job be more than 25 hours per week/Pay more than the minimum wage?

Yes, but the grant amount remains £3,000 regardless of hours worked or pay above the minimum wage. Any additional costs are met by the employer.

## 3. Grant payment

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### How will the grant payment be made?

The £3,000 grant is paid in two instalments once DWP has verified employment and earnings through HMRC. The first payment is £1,800 (after 6 weeks) and the second payment is £1,200 (after 18 weeks), where grant conditions are met.

See the scheme terms and conditions at [Youth Jobs Grant](#) for full payment conditions. Payments will be issued via direct BACS transfer.

### How are earnings checked?

Earnings from the young person's employment will be verified through HMRC Real Time Information (RTI).

We will not accept any other evidence of earnings.

### How can the grant be spent?

The grant should be used on costs arising from or associated with hiring and employing an eligible young person. These may include wage costs, national insurance contributions, pension contributions, recruitment and administration costs associated with hiring the young person, training and management costs.

## 4. Employer responsibilities

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### How much support will the young person need?

Most participants will be work ready and actively looking for work, though some may need additional support to start and stay in employment. A supportive employer, on-the-job training and access to workplace support will give young people the best chance to thrive.

## **How will you stop the scheme being misused?**

We take fraud very seriously and wherever we believe that an employer has acted in a way that is contrary to the scheme's aims or is misusing public money, we will take steps to address this, including recovery of payments we believe may have been obtained through fraud or employers acting in bad faith.

## **Why are there so many due diligence checks, grant conditions and other controls?**

It is important that DWP is protecting public money in line with [Managing Public Money](#) and our controls are in place to ensure young people are only placed in legitimate jobs with legitimate employers.

If we think that any employer breaches the terms and conditions, we reserve the right to withdraw employers or vacancies from the scheme, and recover payments where we believe they may have been obtained fraudulently or in error.

## **5. What happens if there are problems during the scheme**

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### **What happens if my application is unsuccessful?**

Employers will be told whether their application has been successful once the due diligence checks have been completed. If an application is unsuccessful, the notification will explain the next steps, including how to find out more about the decision and how to appeal.

### **Can I apply again if I am rejected?**

Yes, as long as you now meet the eligibility criteria and you will need to pass through eligibility checks. If you have been unsuccessful in applying for the scheme, failed due diligence checks or your job vacancies have not been accepted you will have the opportunity to appeal these decisions in the first instance.

### **What happens if the young person leaves early?**

If a young person leaves the scheme after the first payment has been paid (4 weeks of employment) you may still receive the first grant instalment, subject to the specific circumstances. You will not receive the second instalment.