



Department
for Work &
Pensions

An introduction to **New Style Employment and Support Allowance**

**Easy
Read**



Contents

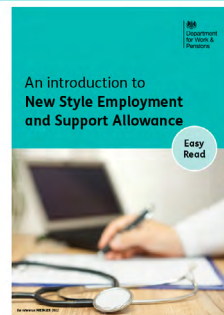
1



Introduction

Page 4

2



What is New Style ESA

Page 6

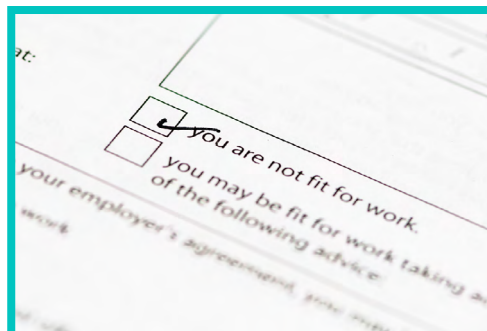
3



Contributory benefits

Page 8

4



Who can get New Style ESA

Page 10

Contents

5



How to apply

Page 15

6



After you apply

Page 19

1

Introduction



Department
for Work &
Pensions

New Style Employment and Support Allowance is a benefit from the Department for Work and Pensions.

New style
ESA

It is sometimes known as
New Style ESA.



If you have an illness, health condition or disability, which means you cannot work, you may be able to get New Style ESA.



This information will tell you about:

- New Style ESA
- Who can get it
- How to apply.

For more Easy Read information on New Style ESA, go to www.gov.uk

Search for **Easy Read New Style ESA**.

2

What is New Style ESA



2
weeks

New Style ESA is paid every 2 weeks usually into your bank or building society account.

UC *Universal Credit*



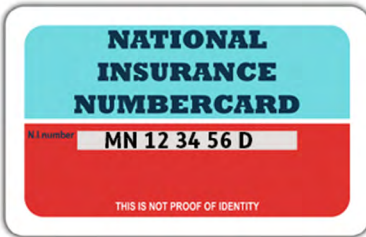
You can claim New Style ESA on its own or at the same time as Universal Credit.

UC *Universal Credit*



If you get both of these benefits, your Universal Credit payment will be reduced.

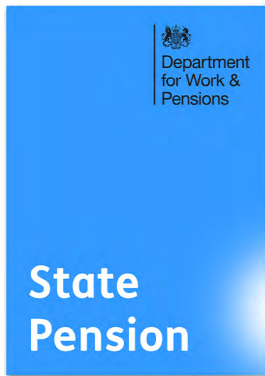
It will be reduced by the amount of New Style ESA you get.



**Class 1
Credits**



When you get New Style ESA, you will earn Class 1 National Insurance credits.



These can help towards your State Pension and other contributory benefits in the future.



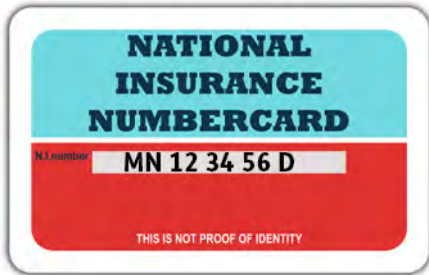
More information about National Insurance credits can be found in:

- Chapter 3, on **page 8** and
- Chapter 4, on **page 13**.

For more information, go to www.gov.uk/guidance/new-style-employment-and-support-allowance#why-should-you-claim-new-style-employment-and-support-allowance

3

Contributory benefits



New Style ESA is a **contributory benefit**.

If you work and earn over a certain amount of money, you will pay National Insurance contributions.



You may be able to get National Insurance Credits if you are:

- A parent or carer
- Ill
- Unemployed.



National Insurance payments and credits may allow you to get some benefits.



One of these benefits is New Style ESA.



When you get this contributory benefit, your savings will not affect how much New Style ESA you get.



If you have a partner who works, their income will also not affect how much you will be paid.

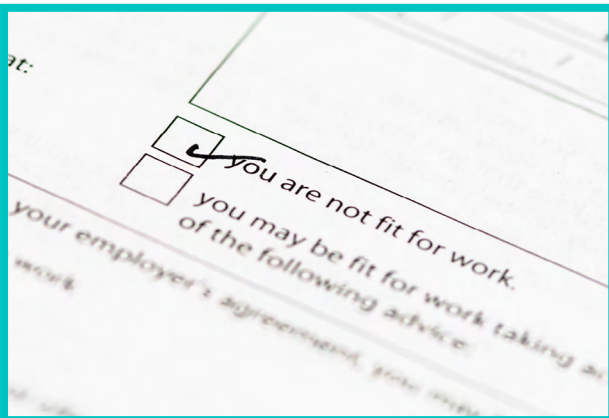
For more information on National Insurance, go to www.gov.uk/national-insurance

4

Who can get New Style ESA



To get New Style ESA, you need a **fit note** from your doctor or a health professional.



A fit note is sometimes called a **'sick note'** or **'doctors note'**.

The fit note will say what health condition or illness you have that stops you from working.

For more information on how to get a fit note, go to www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-fit-note-a-guide-for-patients-and-employees

7 days

You can still make your claim to New Style ESA if you do not have a fit note.

But you must get one after 7 days to continue your claim.

New style ESA

You cannot get New Style ESA if you get **Statutory Sick Pay** from work.



Explaining Statutory Sick Pay

Statutory Sick Pay is money your employer pays you if you are off sick from work.

This usually happens when you are off sick for at least 4 days or more.

For more information on Statutory Sick Pay, go to www.gov.uk/statutory-sick-pay



Your employer should send you a form called an **SSP1**.

This will tell you the date your Statutory Sick Pay will end.

3
months



If your Statutory Sick Pay is due to end in the next 3 months, you can make a claim in advance.

2-3
years

To get New Style ESA, you usually need to have worked in the last 2 to 3 years.



This work can be:

- Employed
- Self-employed.

Class 1 or Class 2



In the last 2 to 3 years, you usually need to have paid or been credited with **Class 1** or **Class 2** National Insurance contributions.



Explaining Class 1 and Class 2 National Insurance contributions

There are different types of National Insurance. These are known as ‘classes’.

The type you pay depends on your work and how much you earn.

Class 1 is paid when an employee earns more than £242 per week and is under State Pension age. These are automatically deducted by your employer.

Class 2 is paid by self-employed people who have earning profits of £6725 or more per year. If their profits are under this amount, they may be able to pay voluntary contributions.

For more information, go to

www.gov.uk/national-insurance/national-insurance-classes

**New style
ESA** 

If you have not paid or been credited with any of these contributions in the last 2 to 3 years, you will probably not get New Style ESA.



You can still apply, if you think you should get New Style ESA.

5

How to apply



The quickest way to apply for New Style ESA is online.

Before you apply, you need to have some information with you:



Your National Insurance number, if you have one.



Your bank details.



Your doctor's name, address, and telephone number.



Any income you get from work.



The date your Statutory Sick Pay ends (if you get this).

To apply online, go to www.apply-new-style-employment-support-allowance.service.gov.uk/who-is-applying



If you cannot apply online, call the **Universal Credit helpline.**

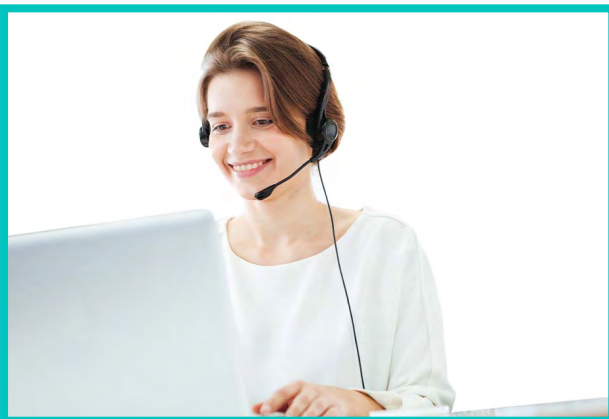
This helpline is open Monday - Friday, 8am to 6pm.



Telephone: **0800 328 5644**
(choose option 3)

Textphone: **0800 328 1344**
(choose option 3)

Welsh language telephone:
0800 328 1744



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

18001 then **0800 328 5644**



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

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

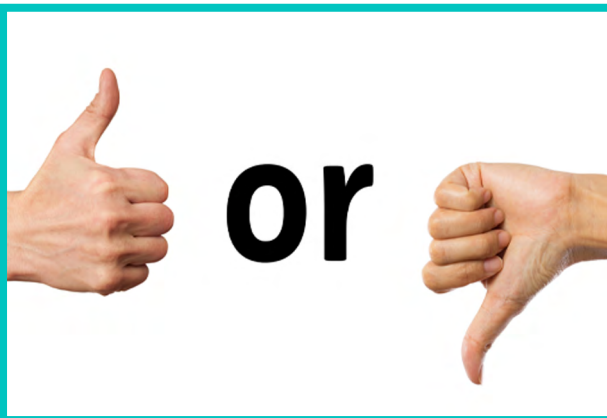
6

After you apply

10
working days



The Department for Work and Pensions will contact you within 10 working days of your application.



We will tell you if you can or cannot get New Style ESA.



If you can get New Style ESA, we will usually arrange an appointment with a work coach from your local Jobcentre Plus office.



The appointment is usually over the phone and you must be available for this.

If you cannot hear or speak on the phone, please let us know as soon as possible.



During your appointment, your work coach will tell you what you need to do to get New Style ESA.



This will include making a list of things you must do to get New Style ESA.

This list of things is called a **'Claimant Commitment'**.



You must agree to your Claimant Commitment before you can get New Style ESA.



If you are nearing the end of your life and are likely to have 12 months or less to live, you will not need to:

- Attend an appointment
- Make a Claimant Commitment.



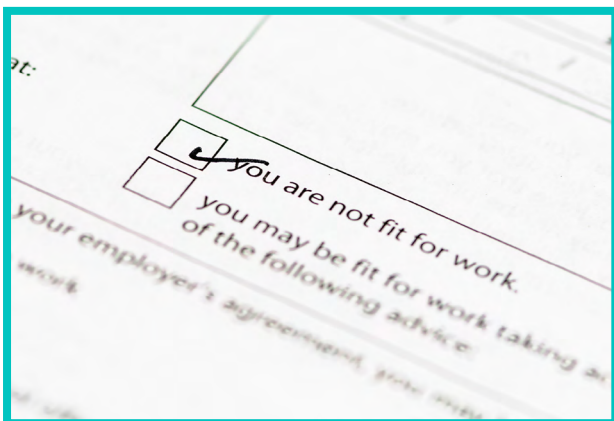
For more information about getting benefits if you are nearing the end of your life go to:

www.gov.uk/benefits-end-of-life

During your appointment, you will also be asked to:



- Talk about your illness or disability and how this affects your work.



- Provide medical evidence, such as a fit note.



Department for
Work and Pensions

- Agree to tell your local Jobcentre if any of your circumstances change.

For more information about New Style ESA, go to www.gov.uk/guidance/new-style-employment-and-support-allowance