

# 18 to 21 year olds and housing costs

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## Housing costs not payable

Housing costs will not be payable to claimants who are aged between 18 and under 22 years old and all the following apply:

- are subject to all work related requirements
- are single, or a member of a couple claiming as a single person
- do not fall into a relevant exemption category

Exemption categories include:

- the claimant is responsible for a child or qualifying young person
- Housing Benefit claimants who move into a Universal Credit full service area or are transferred into Universal Credit Full Service by DWP in roll-out, entitled to Housing Benefit at the point when they move or are moved
- Universal Credit claimants in Live Service areas
- Universal Credit claimants who move into a Full Service area or are transferred from Live Service to Full Service after 31 March who are in receipt of the housing costs element at the point when they move or are moved
- Universal Credit claimants in Full service, whose award began before 1 April and includes housing costs for an assessment period including 01 April 2017.

This exemption does not apply on reclaims where there is a break in entitlement to housing costs after 01 April 2017

See the ['Exempt table'](#) for a full list of exemptions and exemption periods

### **Claimants not subject to all work related requirements**

These claimants are exempt, therefore the 18-21 housing costs restriction does not apply.

### **Claimants temporarily exempted from all work related requirements**

Claimants temporarily exempted from all work related requirements are exempt from this policy for as long as the temporary exemption applies.

### **Claimants with barriers to full labour market participation**

Certain other claimants who fall within the all work related requirements group who have barriers to full-time work are also exempt. This includes:

- those exempted from the shared accommodation rate of local housing allowance
- claimants living in temporary accommodation provided by a local authority under their homelessness duty. See [Homelessness](#) and [Supported accommodation](#)

### **Cases where it is inappropriate for the claimant to return to the family home**

There are exemptions for:

- claimants who have no parents, or parents who have no home in Great Britain
- any case where the Secretary of State determines a claimant would suffer significant harm or that there would be a serious risk to the claimant's physical or mental health if they lived with either of their parents

See the ['Exempt table'](#) for a full list of exemptions and exemption periods

### **Earnings exemption**

There is a 6 month time-limited exemption for some claimants who were previously in work and earning more than a threshold amount.

New claimants qualify for this exemption if:

- they were in work a period of 6 months immediately prior to the month in which they claim Universal Credit, and
- during this period, they were earning at least:

- the monthly equivalent of 16 x National Minimum Wage (NMW) for an 18-20 year old per week each month, or
- the monthly equivalent of 16 x NMW for an apprentice (if employed under an apprenticeship) (“the threshold”).

See the [‘Exempt table’](#) for a full list of exemptions and exemption periods

Existing claimants qualify for this exemption if they were in work and earning more than the threshold amount in each of the 6 previous assessment periods. If an existing claimant has been receiving Universal Credit for less than 6 months, as well as looking at their earnings in previous assessment periods, you must also consider whether they were working and met this earnings threshold in any additional calendar months ending before the month in which the claim for Universal was made that are required to make up the 6 month period.

There are also a number of other exemption groups and a full list is included in the table below.

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### **Exempt groups and applicable time periods**

Any claimant who was a care leaver before the age of 18	Permanent
<p>Claimants for whom it is inappropriate to live with their parents. This may include (but is not limited to) cases where a claimant is :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• at risk of being victimised or abused - domestic violence cases</li> <li>• estrangement linked to reasons of sexuality or religious belief</li> <li>• pregnant mothers unable to stay in family home</li> <li>• potentially young prisoners if that is appropriate in the circumstances of a particular case</li> <li>• those within the criteria used by local authorities to house vulnerable young people</li> <li>• a claimant whose parents are in prison or whose parents are prevented from entering the country</li> <li>• other circumstances at an agent’s discretion</li> </ul>	While it is considered inappropriate for the claimant to live with their parents.
Claimants whose parents do not live in this country; or whose parents are deceased	As long as the parents continue to live outside this country

Claimants in receipt of the care component of Disability Living Allowance at the middle or highest rate, or those in receipt of the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment	While in receipt of listed components
Claimants who have been subject to or threatened with domestic violence by a partner, former partner or family member.	Permanent
Claimants in late pregnancy (i.e. 11 weeks from the Sunday of the week in which the baby is due) or if a claimant miscarries or the baby is stillborn after the 24th week of pregnancy.	A claimant will be exempt during the 11 week period and for 15 weeks after miscarriage or stillborn birth
Claimants earning the monthly equivalent of 16 x National Minimum Wage (NMW) for an 18-20 year old per week in their current assessment period (or the monthly equivalent of 16 x the NMW for an apprentice (if employed under an apprenticeship)	Month by month
New claimants who have earned the monthly equivalent of 16x NMW for an 18-20 year old for six months prior to the month in which they claimed Universal Credit.  If the claimant was employed as an apprentice during the 6 months in question then the earnings threshold which applies is the monthly equivalent of 16 x the NMW for apprentices.	Six months
Existing claimants who have earned the monthly equivalent of 16 x NMW for an 18-20 in each of the 6 previous assessment periods.  If an existing claimant has been receiving Universal Credit for less than 6 months, as well as looking at their earnings in previous assessment periods, consider whether they were working and met this earnings threshold in any additional calendar months ending before the month in which the claim for Universal was made that are required to make up the 6 month period	Six months
The claimant is, and has been for no more than six months, receiving and participating in a formal recovery-based course of alcohol or drug dependency treatment	Six months from the start of the programme.

<p>Those temporarily abroad for less than six months because they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>receiving treatment for an illness or physical or mental impairment, or medically approved convalescence or care, or</li> <li>are accompanying a partner or a child or qualifying young person for whom they are responsible who is receiving such treatment, convalescence or care</li> </ul>	<p>Up to six months</p>
<p>Claimants who have recently suffered a bereavement in the past six months, including where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the claimant was a member of a couple and the other member died</li> <li>a child or qualifying young person for whom the claimant was responsible died</li> <li>a child, where the claimant was the child's parent, died</li> </ul>	<p>Six months from the date of bereavement.</p>
<p>Claimants with a physical or mental impairment and, as determined by an agent, their expected number of hours is less than 35 per week</p>	<p>While the agent determines their expected hours are less than 35 per week</p>
<p>Lead carers, relevant carers and foster parents where, as determined by an agent, their expected number of hours is less than 35 per week</p>	<p>While the claimant is receiving Carer's Allowance, is subject to no work-related requirements or during the period when an agent determines their expected hours is less than 35 per week</p>
<p>Claimants who are unfit for work</p>	<p>Up to 14 days (and this exemption can be relied on by a claimant no more than twice in any 12 month period).</p>
<p>The claimant is attending a court or tribunal as a party to proceedings or as a witness</p>	<p>While this applies to the</p>

	claimant
The claimant is, and has been for no more than three months, a person for whom arrangements have been made by a protection provider under section 82 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005	Up to three months from the start of those arrangements.
The claimant is the subject of multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) - level 2 and 3. These arrangements cover violent and some types of sexual offenders, and offenders who pose a serious risk of harm to the public	While the claimant is managed under level 2 or level 3
Claimants in late pregnancy (i.e. 11 weeks from the Sunday of the week in which the baby is due) or if a claimant miscarries or the baby is stillborn after the 24th week of pregnancy.	A claimant will be exempt during the 11 week period and for 15 weeks after miscarriage or stillborn birth
Prisoners	While a prisoner where the period in custody is likely to be less than 6 months
Claimants living in <a href="#">temporary accommodation</a> for homeless people.	While the claimant is living in temporary accommodation
Lead carers for children or qualifying young persons	While lead carer for a child or qualifying young person
Couples living together – where both members are eligible for Universal Credit	While claimant is part of the couple

### **Exemptions not applicable**

Claimants awaiting a work capability assessment are not exempt.

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