

# Other benefits

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## Introduction

Universal Credit provides a single integrated system of in and out of work support for working age claimants. It replaces the following benefits:

- income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit (only for claimants below qualifying age for State Pension Credit)

However, other benefits/payments will continue to exist.

If other benefits are received, this may impact on the Universal Credit award. Some benefits are not classed as income and are ignored but others are taken fully into account in the Universal Credit assessment.

## Overlapping benefits

When Universal Credit is claimed, any of the existing legacy benefits listed above, or Housing Benefit must be stopped.

For claimants in supported accommodation or temporary accommodation, Housing Benefit will remain in place.

Some benefits are automatically checked and stopped, but others go through a manual process.

If an overlap occurs between Universal Credit and any legacy benefits (except Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit) or Housing Benefit, the award must be reassessed and calculated to take account of the overlap and avoid duplication

of payments. The Universal Credit claim should be updated, and any overpayments will be recovered. See Overpayments

For migration cases, transitional provisions enable the recovery of any overlaps that occur by taking the legacy benefits into account as unearned income for up to three months.

### **Other benefits**

Universal Credit should not be paid to claimants with enough income available from other sources to support themselves. Exceptions are made where the benefit payments are made for additional costs which the claimant has, for example certain disability benefits.

Claimants who receive other benefits in addition to Universal Credit are subject to the relevant Universal Credit Labour Market regime based on their relevant Universal Credit legal conditionality group.

Whilst Universal Credit conditionality supersedes that required for new style ESA and JSA, conditions of entitlement to those benefits and obligations must still be satisfied for example, a Claimant Commitment must be accepted; report any changes.

If for any reason Universal Credit entitlement ends then the other benefits conditionality will need to be applied.

### **Other benefits taken fully into account**

The following benefits are taken fully into account when calculating Universal Credit payments:

- Bereavement Allowance ('Bereavement Support Payment' is treated differently see this [section](#) for guidance)
- Carer's Allowance (but not any Scottish Government Carer's Allowance Supplement (CAS) paid twice yearly to recipients of Carer's Allowance in Scotland which is disregarded)
- Incapacity Benefit (migrated cases only)
- Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (but not any Constant Attendance Allowance or Exceptional Severe Disablement Allowance which is disregarded)
- Maternity Allowance
- New style Employment and Support Allowance
- New style Jobseeker's Allowance
- Severe Disablement Allowance (migrated cases only)
- State Pension
- Widowed Mother's Allowance
- Widowed Parent's Allowance
- Widow's Pension

This means for each £1 the claimant is entitled to from these benefits, the Universal Credit payment is reduced by £1.

Any benefit, allowance or payment from a country outside the United Kingdom could also be taken fully into account, depending on the circumstances.

## **Annual uprating**

Annual uprating is the yearly increase in benefit rates. The benefit rates can be found at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

The uprated amount of other benefits taken fully into account is applied from the start of the same assessment period in which the claimant's Universal Credit award itself is up-rated.

## **Benefit Cap**

The Benefit Cap applies to the combined entitlement to Universal Credit and other benefits subject to the benefit cap.

## **Overpayments**

Overpayments due to overlapping benefits are currently being recovered from the claimant but a process is being developed to recover them from other benefits.

## **Other benefits/pensions which are ignored**

Benefits/pensions ignored are:

- Access to Work payments
- Attendance Allowance/ Constant Attendance Allowance (including Industrial Injuries and War Disablement Pension strands of Constant Attendance Allowance)
- Bereavement Support Payment
- Child Benefit
- Christmas Bonus
- Disability Living Allowance
- Discretionary Housing Payments (LA)
- Fostering Allowance
- Guardian's Allowance
- Independent Living Payments
- local Council Tax Reduction
- Personal Independence Payment
- Scottish Government Carer's Allowance Supplement (CAS) paid twice yearly to recipients of Carer's Allowance in Scotland
- Transition to Universal Credit housing payment
- War Pensions (including War Disablement Pension and War Widows/Widowers Pensions)

## **Pension Credit**

Universal Credit offers a signposting service for State Pension Credit (SPC). Claimants can find further information about SPC on [Gov.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

## **Joint claim**

The Upper Age Limit does not apply if the person over the qualifying age for State Pension Credit age is in a joint claim and their partner has not reached that age. Both adults are eligible for Universal Credit providing all other conditions of entitlement are met. The person over the SPC qualifying age is exempt from work conditionality and will be placed in the no work related requirements regime.

### **Example:**

One adult in a couple is 57 and the other is 75. Both are able to claim Universal Credit together as a joint claim in the normal way.

The person over the SPC qualifying age is exempt from work conditionality and will be placed in the no work related requirements regime.

If the adult over SPC qualifying age separates from the eligible adult under SPC qualifying age, they would become ineligible for Universal Credit and would need to claim SPC.

The SPC qualifying age is linked to women's State Pension age, so both men and women can qualify for SPC when they have reached women's State Pension age.

## **Advance claim to Pension Credit**

A Universal Credit claimant can make an advance claim to State Pension Credit. If an advance claim is made; and the claimant reaches State Pension Credit age part-way through their assessment period, Universal Credit will pay a pro-rata payment at the end of that assessment period. This will be in respect of any days between the first day of the assessment period and the day before they reach State Pension Credit age.

Earnings or other income received in any part of the assessment period are taken into account in the Universal Credit award calculation as normal.

If a claim to Pension Credit is made, but not in advance, Universal Credit is not paid pro-rata in the final part month, and there will be a gap in entitlement.

## **Additional support**

When Child Tax Credit is abolished customers over State Pension Credit qualifying age with dependent children will, if eligible, receive an additional amount for children in their State Pension Credit. This will be known as the Child Addition and will broadly mirror the provisions in Universal Credit, including a 2-child limit.

Housing Benefit for pensioners will remain until at least October 2023, but we are looking at how support for rent for pensioners will be provided in the longer term.