

Assessment period

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An assessment period is a period of 1 calendar month. The Universal Credit award is calculated on the last day of each assessment period and is based on the claimant's known circumstances on that date.

For example, if a child was on the claim for part of the assessment period and that child was no longer on the claim on the last day of the assessment period, the award will not include a payment for that child.

First assessment period

The first assessment period starts on the date the claimant makes their Universal Credit claim unless the claim is backdated. However, this does not apply to re-claims. See Re-claims guidance.

It is during the first assessment period that most 'to-dos' are created.

It is essential that the claimant, work coach and case manager complete all the activities correctly and in the specified time. If this doesn't happen, the claimant may not be paid correctly or on time and this could result in more journal entries, telephone calls, queries and complaints.