[Universal Credit: How to claim - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit/how-to-claim)

[**How to claim Universal Credit: step by step**](https://www.gov.uk/how-to-claim-universal-credit)

1. **Check if you're eligible**

[Check if you're eligible for Universal Credit](https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit/eligibility?step-by-step-nav=7c08bbbf-a1ca-4cf5-850d-d9f2c796c750)

If you've worked in the last 2 to 3 years, you may also be eligible for:

* 1. ['new style' Jobseeker's Allowance if you're out of work](https://www.gov.uk/how-to-claim-new-style-jsa?step-by-step-nav=7c08bbbf-a1ca-4cf5-850d-d9f2c796c750)
  2. ['new style' Employment and Support Allowance if you can't work because of illness or disability](https://www.gov.uk/how-to-claim-new-style-esa?step-by-step-nav=7c08bbbf-a1ca-4cf5-850d-d9f2c796c750)

1. **Create an account and make a claim,**

You need an online account to claim Universal Credit.

[Set up an account and make a claim](https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit/how-to-claim#content)

You must submit your claim within 28 days of creating your account.

If you live with your partner, they will also need to set up an account. You'll be given a code to link the accounts together.

**Find out how your claim is assessed**

You'll need to have an interview with Jobcentre Plus. You'll be told how to arrange this after you submit your claim. It will be within 10 working days.

If you have a disability or health condition you may need a work capability assessment. You'll be told if you need one after you claim.

[What to do if you have a health condition or disability](https://www.gov.uk/health-conditions-disability-universal-credit?step-by-step-nav=7c08bbbf-a1ca-4cf5-850d-d9f2c796c750)

1. **Apply for an advance on your first payment,**

If you need help with bills or other costs while you wait for your first payment, you can apply to get an advance.

[Get an advance on your first Universal Credit payment](https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit/get-an-advance-first-payment?step-by-step-nav=7c08bbbf-a1ca-4cf5-850d-d9f2c796c750)

Check if you can get any other financial support

1. **Get your first payment,**

You’ll get your first payment 5 weeks after you claim. Your account will be updated to tell you how much it will be.

What to do if you disagree with the decision

1. **Report any change of circumstances**

You must update your account if your circumstances change to get the right payment.

[How to report a change in circumstances](https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit/changes-of-circumstances?step-by-step-nav=7c08bbbf-a1ca-4cf5-850d-d9f2c796c750)

[What to do if your payments are stopped](https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit/your-responsibilities?step-by-step-nav=7c08bbbf-a1ca-4cf5-850d-d9f2c796c750)