

Universal Credit
Important Information about
working age benefit claimants



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lives

A large majority of those in receipt Employment and Support Allowance, will not be required to move to UC this coming year and instead will be invited to claim in **2028/29**.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT WORKING AGE BENEFIT CLAIMANTS.

Read on to inform yourself about changes coming this year.

Universal Credit was introduced to Northern Ireland in 2017, and is now replacing some of the benefits you may be claiming. The majority of remaining legacy benefit claims will be closed by the end of 2024. **Those affected will be invited to claim Universal Credit. You should only make a claim for Universal Credit once you receive a migration letter from Department for Communities.** Once you receive your Universal Credit Migration letter you will need the following to help your claim run smoothly.

The following information tells you everything you need to know:



Personal information:

- A valid email address
- Telephone and /or mobile number
- National insurance number
- Photographic ID



Housing information:

- Postal address (including postcode).
- Landlords details.
- Tenancy or Rent Agreement
- How much rent is paid. If you have a service charge you will need this amount separately as it will ask for this during your application.



Financial information:

- Details of the bank, building society, Credit Union, or Post Office card account you want your Universal Credit to be paid into. Payment into a bank is the preferred method.
- Details of any savings or other capital (if you have any).
- Details of any earnings or income that's not from work, for example from an insurance plan or occupational pension.
- Details of any other benefits you are receiving (if receiving any).
- Child Benefit reference numbers where relevant.



Getting online

If you do not have internet access in your home, there are various ways to get online locally.

Your nearest Jobs and Benefits Office will have digital zones with PCs and free WiFi. Another option is your nearest library where there are PCs, free WiFi and sometimes basic IT classes on offer.

The local Further Education College may offer IT classes as well as a local community group or advice centre.

Don't worry if you have any difficulties getting on online please ask your Housing Officer for help.



Rates

A payment for rates is **not** included in the housing element of Universal Credit.

When completing the online application you should:

Tick the box to confirm your name appears on the rates bill: and

Tick the box to say you require support with rates.

You should make your claim for Rates straight after making your claim for Universal Credit at www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/how-claim-rate-rebate.



Email Addresses

A valid email address is needed to claim Universal Credit. The most well known webmail providers include **Gmail, Outlook.com**, and **Yahoo! Mail**. All of these services are free to use and can be accessed just about anywhere.



Budgeting support / Money Advice

As there is a 5 week wait for your first Universal Credit payment, for those that may struggle there may be support available. Contact our specialist Benefit Advisers who are ready and waiting to help you. Contact our **Financial Inclusion Team on 0300 111 2211** today.





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