

Other benefits that are changing alongside Universal Credit

Improving benefits

Universal Credit is replacing six work related benefits with a single monthly payment if you are on a low income or out of work.

There are several other benefits outlined here which are changing too. Please note that different benefits may have different rules about who can claim them. For example, the amount you are allowed to have in savings or capital may be higher for some benefits than it is for others.

Advance payments and budgeting loans

Universal Credit mirrors the world of work and you can request an advance payment. You can ask for an advance to borrow money to cover one-off expenses such as clothes or furniture.

You can also ask for a short-term advance for the first payment of Universal Credit, to help you manage the transition to monthly payments. If you get an advance, your future monthly payments will be reduced to make up for this.

Budgeting loans are still available if you are claiming other benefits such as Jobseeker's Allowance.

Council Tax Benefit

Local authorities are responsible for providing support for those needing help to meet their council tax costs. Local councils in England run their own local support schemes. Scotland and Wales each have their own schemes that are run by local councils.

Information about your Universal Credit claim is shared with your local authority to decide how much of a rebate your household will get. As Universal Credit is introduced, each local authority will review their support.

Social Fund

Social Fund support is changing alongside Universal Credit. Some parts of it are provided through Universal Credit whilst other parts are replaced by new local services. The new services are provided by local authorities and the Scottish and Welsh Governments.

Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants

Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants have been replaced by a system which is led by local authorities and the Scottish and Welsh Governments. They can offer financial support if you are facing a crisis or short-term need.

Other benefits that are changing alongside Universal Credit

Cold Weather Payments, Sure Start Maternity Grant and Funeral Payments

Based on your income and personal situation, you may still be able to claim Cold Weather Payments, the Sure Start Maternity Grant and Funeral Payments with Universal Credit. Rules have been set up to make sure that help goes to those who have the greatest need. Therefore not everyone on Universal Credit will be able to get these payments.

Other help

Because you receive Universal Credit you may be eligible for other benefits such as free prescriptions. For more information about this, go to www.gov.uk/universalcredit.

As Universal Credit is introduced across the country, new rules about who can claim this help and how they can do so will be put in place. Eligibility for this help will depend on how your family unit is made up and on how much take home pay you receive each month. You will need to check the relevant department's website to see if you are eligible.

When will this happen?

New Local Council Tax Support schemes have already been introduced across Great Britain and local authorities have set up new local provision. Benefit advances have been introduced for those claiming Universal Credit in the Pathfinder area.

From October 2013 changes to other help and who can apply will start to be introduced.

The Universal Credit [online planning tool](#) is available through GOV.UK and can help you to prepare for making a claim to Universal Credit. You provide the answers to some basic questions and it will tell you how ready you are for Universal Credit. It will also provide advice on what you need to do next and the best sources of advice on offer. It will not tell you how much Universal Credit you will get as this will depend on your circumstances when you claim.