

## How to make a Universal Credit claim as a couple.

Universal Credit is a new service that supports people who are on a low income or are out of work, and helps ensure they are better off in work than on benefits.

From summer 2014 it has been claimed by some couples in certain areas of the UK.

A couple are 2 adults in the same household who are married, in a civil partnership, or living together as if they were married.



### Make a joint claim online

Go to [www.gov.uk/universalcredit](http://www.gov.uk/universalcredit) to check if you can make a claim. One person can make the claim on behalf of both of you. You both get appointments from Jobcentre Plus to come in and meet your work coach.

### Meet your work coach

You each have your own **Claimant Commitment** drawn up with your work coach. It sets out the responsibilities each of you has accepted in return for receiving Universal Credit, and explains what could happen if you don't do what you've agreed.

### Look for work

Your Jobcentre Plus work coach will support and challenge you to do everything you can to get a job. You'll get expert **help and advice** and in return you'll take personal responsibility for finding work quickly.

### Get your first single household payment

The household will get a **single monthly payment** to pay your rent and other bills. This will usually be paid into a joint account to help you manage your money together. Or you can nominate payments to be made into one of your accounts if you choose. You get a range of support to help you with budgeting.

### Tell us if your situation changes

You tell Jobcentre Plus **straight away on 0345 600 0723\*** if your circumstances change. This might be because one or both of you start work, or if you stop being a couple or start a family. Your Claimant Commitments may also need to change.

### Move into work and still get support

You could still **receive some Universal Credit when you start to work**. Universal Credit will top up your earnings, gradually reducing as your hours or income increases.

For more information go to [www.gov.uk/universalcredit](http://www.gov.uk/universalcredit)

\* Calls to 0345 numbers cost no more than a standard geographic call, and count towards any free or inclusive minutes in your landline or mobile phone contract.