

## **Universal Credit: housing costs for 18 to 21 year olds**

From 1st April 2017, the rules are changing for young people aged 18 to 21 who want to claim help with housing costs in areas where Universal Credit is fully rolled out.

Unemployed young people who can live in their family home will no longer automatically receive an amount for housing in their Universal Credit award.

Young people who are in work, have children of their own, are disabled or are vulnerable are not affected by this change. A full list of exemptions is given below.

Landlords can continue to rent to these young people with confidence.

Most will have clear upfront evidence that they are exempt - for example those in work or claiming a disability benefit. This evidence could also be in the form of a statement from a trusted third party (e.g. a local authority homelessness team or a relevant charity) that the young person is unable to return to the parental home.

Some young people will be eligible for support because they are unable to return to the parental home, but will not have upfront evidence. In these cases any extenuating circumstances will be taken into account.

### **18 to 21 year olds who can get help with housing costs**

- Those for whom it is inappropriate for the young person to live with their parents, for example where there has been a breakdown in the relationship with their parents, where the young person has been asked to leave the family home, or where the need to live independently is part of an agreed plan with relevant support agencies
- Those who are claiming Universal Credit in a live service area
- Those who are responsible for a child or a qualifying young person
- Those who get the care component of Disability Living Allowance at the middle or highest rate
- Those who get the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment
- Those who have a physical or mental impairment and are not expected to work more than 35 hours a week
- Those who are a relevant carer and are not expected to work more than 35 hours a week
- Those who were a care leaver before the age of 18
- Those who are a victim of domestic violence
- Those who live in Temporary Accommodation
- Those who have no parent

- Those who cannot live with their parents because they do not have a home in Great Britain
- Those who cannot live with their parents because of a serious risk to their physical or mental health or significant risk of harm
- Those who earn the monthly equivalent of 16x National Minimum Wage in their Universal Credit assessment period
- Those who have a contract as an apprentice on the last day of their Universal Credit assessment period. Continuing entitlement is dependent on them earning the monthly equivalent of 16x National Minimum Wage for apprentices during each assessment period
- Those who have made a new claim to Universal Credit and earned the monthly equivalent of 16x National Minimum Wage for 18 to 20 year olds each month for the 6 calendar months before the month in which they made their claim to Universal Credit (see National Minimum Wage and the in-work threshold calculation below)
- Those who have made a new claim for Universal Credit and have been contracted as an apprentice for the 6 months before the month in which they claim Universal Credit and they were earning the monthly equivalent of 16X National Minimum Wage for apprentices throughout that period
- Those who are an existing Universal Credit claimant and: a) earned the monthly equivalent of 16x National Minimum Wage for 18 to 20 year olds in each of the 6 previous assessment periods, or b) have received Universal Credit for less than 6 months and have earned the monthly equivalent of 16x National Minimum Wage for 18 to 20 year olds in each of the previous assessment periods and in any additional calendar months within the last 6 months but before the month in which they claimed.
- Those who are an existing Universal Credit claimant contracted as an apprentice and: a) earned the monthly equivalent of 16x National Minimum Wage for apprentices in each of the 6 previous assessment periods, or b) have received Universal Credit for less than 6 months and have earned the monthly equivalent of 16x National Minimum Wage for apprentices in each previous assessment period and in any additional calendar months within the last 6 months but before the month in which they claimed.
- Those who are a member of a couple who claim Universal Credit as a couple
- Those who are covered by multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) - for example: registered sex offenders, violent and other types of sexual offenders, offenders who pose a serious risk of harm to the public, certain claimants in Scotland who may cause serious harm to the public
- Those who are a prisoner in custody or on remand
- Those who are attending a court or tribunal as a party to any proceedings or as a witness
- Those who are under protection arrangements because they are involved in

criminal investigations or proceedings

- Those who are getting treatment for alcohol or drug dependency
- Those who are abroad for no more than 6 months to get treatment for an illness or physical or mental impairment or for medically approved convalescence or care, or are accompanying a partner, child or qualifying young person for whom they are responsible and they are receiving such treatment, convalescence or care
- Those whose partner or child has died in the last 6 months
- Those who are taking part in activity that is in the nature of a public duty, for example jury service
- Those who are expecting a baby within 11 weeks
- Those who miscarry or whose baby is stillborn after the 24th week of pregnancy
- Those who have a fit note showing they cannot work for up to 14 days
- Those who are not subject to 'all work-related requirements' conditionality as part of their Universal Credit claim
- Those who are a Housing Benefit claimant who moves into a Universal Credit full service area or are transferred into Universal Credit full service by DWP who are entitled to Housing Benefit at the point that they move or are moved
- Those who moved into a Universal Credit full service area or are transferred from Universal Credit live service to Universal Credit full service after 31 March 2017 and were receiving the Housing Costs element when they moved or were transferred
- Those who have been claiming in Universal Credit full service since before 1 April 2017 and their claim includes the Housing Costs element.