

Help to Claim Project

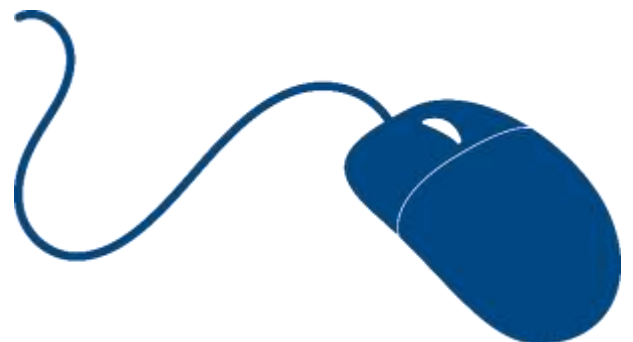
Universal Credit
Support Service



1. What is UC?

citizens
advice

Westminster



What is Universal Credit?

Universal Credit (UC) is a means-tested benefit for people of working-age. This new system replaces six existing “**legacy benefits**”:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit

You might be able to get Universal Credit if you are not working or you're on a low income (it is important to check if you are eligible).



Universal Credit works differently from the old benefits - so it's important to know the differences:

- you can get UC if you are unemployed but also if you are working
- you will usually get a single payment each month, rather than weekly or fortnightly
- instead of getting separate housing benefit, your rent will usually be paid directly to you as part of your monthly UC payment

What about other benefits?

You may be able to claim benefits like Personal Independence Payment and Carer's Allowance in addition to UC.

If you are over retirement age, but your partner is not, check whether you should get Pension Credit instead.

(NB: From 15 May 2019 you will not be able to claim Pension Credit until your partner retires too. UC could be over £7,000 less!)

If you get Pension Credit before 15 May 2019 you do not have to swap to UC.

Next leaflet: 2. Are you eligible to claim UC?