



# What is Universal Credit?

Universal Credit is a payment for working age people who are on a low income or out of work. It gives them the help they need to prepare for work, start work, or earn more money and includes support for housing, children and childcare.

## UNIVERSAL CREDIT REPLACES:

- Jobseeker's Allowance (income-based)
- Employment and Support Allowance (income-related)
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit (Rental)

## How Universal Credit helps your business



- Universal Credit is based on earnings and not hours worked, offering more flexibility for staff to increase their hours.
- **Opportunities to use existing part-time staff** – for overtime and extra shifts at peak times.
- **Reduction of red tape** – using the PAYE real time information you send to HMRC to calculate Universal Credit payments means you will get fewer wage enquiries.
- **Access to a wider pool of better prepared applicants** – Universal Credit enhances job preparation and improves digital skills.
- **Jobseekers will have flexibility to consider short term work** – as they'll know their claim stays open and their benefit payment will adjust accordingly.

### UNIVERSAL CREDIT CLAIMANTS:

- can work more hours as their benefit payment will be adjusted accordingly
- are encouraged to improve their circumstances. They may ask for more hours or for help building their skills



## Support for employers

### DEDICATED EMPLOYER TEAMS

Our dedicated employer facing staff will provide a crucial link with you on a local and national basis. They will:

- help you source the staff you need
- connect with you in a way that suits you, face to face, by telephone or digitally
- provide access a wider pool of better prepared claimants
- provide flexible solutions to encourage growth, for example assistance with recruitment, training, or signposting

If you require more information contact:  
[dfcemployerservices@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:dfcemployerservices@communities-ni.gov.uk)

### JOBAPPLYNI.COM

JobApplyNI is an online service which can provide you with a wide range of candidates across all sectors efficiently, effectively and at no direct cost. It is managed by the Department's Employer Services Branch, who will help you get the right people in the right job.

You can use JobApplyNI to place and manage vacancies on a 24-7 basis with vacancies being directly uploaded and displayed on the JobApplyNI.com website. Once you have registered you can:

- copy previous vacancies and upload your application form
- receive CVs and application forms direct to your account
- review the applications and select those you want to consider for the job

You can find out more at  
[www.JobApplyNI.com](http://www.JobApplyNI.com)

### FURTHER INFORMATION

There is information on all aspects of Universal Credit available at [www.nidirect.gov.uk/universalcredit](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/universalcredit) If you would like more information specific to Universal Credit and employers, visit [www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/universal-credit](http://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/universal-credit)