

# **Benefits**



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## **Benefits**

### **Benefits calculators**

You can use an independent, free and anonymous benefits calculator to check what you could be entitled to. This will give you an estimate of:

- what benefits you could get
- the benefits you could get
- how much your benefit payments could be
- how your benefits will be affected if you start work or increase your hours
- how your benefits will be affected if your circumstances change - for example, if you have a child or move in with your partner

These are free to use, anonymous, and have replaced the Benefits Adviser service.

Please note you cannot use the calculators if you're under 18

<https://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators>

## **Benefits**

### **Child Benefit**

You can claim Child Benefit as soon as you've registered the birth of your child, or they come to live with you.

You may be entitled to get Child Benefit if you're responsible for bringing up a child who is:

- under 16
- under 20 if they stay in approved education or training
- Only one person can get Child Benefit for a child.

It's paid every 4 weeks and there's no limit to how many children you can claim for.

For more information <https://www.gov.uk/child-benefit/>

## **Benefits**

### **Disability Living Allowance (DLA)**

Disability Living Allowance for children is a tax-free benefit made up of 2 components (parts). The child might qualify for one or both components.

Usually, to qualify for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for children the child must:

- be under 16 - anyone over 16 must apply for Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- need extra looking after or have walking difficulties
- be in England, Wales, a European Economic Area (EEA) country or Switzerland when you claim - there are some exceptions, such as family members of the Armed Forces
- have lived in Great Britain for at least 6 of the last 12 months, if over 3 years old

### **The child's disability or health condition**

The child's disability or health condition must mean at least one of the following apply:

- they need much more looking after than a child of the same age who does not have a disability
- they have difficulty getting about
- They must have had these difficulties for at least 3 months and expect them to last for at least 6 months.
- If a medical professional has said they might have 12 months or less to live, they do not need to have had these difficulties for 3 months.

### **Care component**

The rate the child gets depends on the level of looking after they need, for example:

- lowest rate - help for some of the day
- middle rate - frequent help or constant supervision during the day, supervision at night or someone to help while they're on dialysis
- highest rate - help or supervision throughout both day and night, or a medical professional has said they might have 12 months or less to live

### **Mobility component**

The rate the child gets depends on the level of help they need getting about, for example:

- lowest rate - they can walk but need help and or supervision when outdoors
- highest rate - they cannot walk, can only walk a short distance without severe discomfort, could become very ill if they try to walk or they're blind or severely sight impaired

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There are also age limits to receiving the mobility component:

- lowest rate - the child must be 5 years or over
- highest rate - the child must be 3 years or over

If your child is under these ages and you claim DLA for them, you should be sent a claim pack 6 months before they turn 3 and 6 months before they turn 5. You can then apply for the mobility component if you think they're eligible for it.

If you have not received any claim packs and you think your child may be entitled to the mobility component, contact the Disability Service Centre.

*To claim DLA for a child you need to be their parent or look after them as if you're their parent. This includes step-parents, guardians, grandparents, foster-parents or older brothers or sisters.*

How to apply:

If your child currently lives in England or Wales you can apply by either:

- Printing off and filling in the DLA claim form online  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disability-living-allowance-for-children-claim-form>

OR

- Phoning the Disability Living Allowance helpline and asking for a printed form  
Disability Living Allowance helpline  
Telephone: 0800 121 4600  
Textphone: 0800 121 4523

### **Please note you need to report changes:**

You must contact the Disability Living Allowance (DLA) helpline if:

- your child's personal details change, for example their name, address or doctor
- the help they need or their condition changes
- their condition has worsened and they're not expected to live more than 12 months
- they go into hospital or a care home
- they go abroad
- they're imprisoned or held in detention
- their immigration status has changed, if they're not a British citizen

For more information, please use the below link:

<https://www.gov.uk/disability-living-allowance-children>

## **Benefits**

### **Personal Independence Payment (PIP)**

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) can help with extra living costs if you have both:

- a long-term physical or mental health condition or disability
- difficulty doing certain everyday tasks or getting around because of your condition

You can get PIP even if you're working, have savings or are getting most other benefits.

#### **Eligibility:**

The person must be between age 16 and state pension age and have a health condition or disability that affects your daily life or makes it hard to move around. It must have been going on for three months and be expected to continue for at least 9 months. The amount you receive depends on how much the condition affects you, not the condition itself. An assessment will need to take place by a health professional to work out what level of help you need.

For further information <https://www.gov.uk/pip>

#### **Help with PIP:**

If you need help understanding or applying for PIP help can be gained from Citizens Advice

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

Warwickshire Family Information Service can assist Warwickshire families with their application.

Please contact them on:

Online

[fis@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:fis@warwickshire.gov.uk)

[Twitter - @WarksFIS](#)

[Facebook - Warwickshire Family Information Service](#)

Phone

01926 742274

## **Benefits**

### **16-19 Bursary Fund**

A bursary is money that you, or your education or training provider, can use to pay for things like:

- clothing, books and other equipment for your course
- transport and lunch on days you study or train

You could get a bursary to help with education-related costs if you're aged 16 to 19 and:

- studying at a publicly funded school or college in England - not a university
- on a training course, including unpaid work experience

If you're 19 and over

You could also get a bursary if you either:

- are continuing on a course you started aged 16 to 18 (known as being a '19+ continuer')
- have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

There are 2 types of 16 to 19 bursary:

- a bursary for students in vulnerable groups
- a discretionary bursary

#### **Bursary for students in vulnerable groups**

You could get a bursary worth up to £1,200, depending on your circumstances and benefits.

You may be able to get a bursary if at least one of the following applies:

- you're in or you recently left local authority care
- you get Income Support or Universal Credit because you're financially supporting yourself
- you get Disability Living Allowance (DLA) in your name and either Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) or Universal Credit
- you get Personal Independence Payment (PIP) in your name and either ESA or Universal Credit

The amount you may get depends on the costs you have and what you need for your course. This might include money for books, equipment or travel costs to school or college.

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### **Discretionary bursary**

You could get a discretionary bursary if you need financial help but do not qualify for a bursary for students in vulnerable groups. Your education or training provider decides how much you get and what it's used for.

If you're over 19, you'll only be eligible for a discretionary bursary.

Your provider will decide how you get your bursary. You might get:

- an instalment paid by cash, cheque or bank transfer
- things like a travel pass, free meals or books

Some providers also offer one-off payments to cover study trips or travel for university interviews.

### **Bursary for students in vulnerable groups**

For more information

<https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund>

Or see the 16-19 Bursary Fund Policy on the school website.

<https://www.exhallgrange.co.uk/general-policies/>



## **Benefits**

### **Carers Allowance**

You can usually get Carer's Allowance if all of the following apply:

- you're aged 16 or over
- you're not in full time education
- you spend at least 35 hours a week caring for a disabled person
- you don't earn more than £132 a week from employment or self-employment – after deductions such as income tax, National Insurance and half of your pension contributions
- you're not subject to immigration control that would stop you getting benefits

You may be eligible for Carer's Allowance if you, the person you care for and the type of care you provide meets certain criteria.

The person you're caring for must get one of the following benefits, called 'qualifying benefits':

- Attendance Allowance
- Constant Attendance Allowance
- the care component of Disability Living Allowance at the middle or highest rate
- the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment (either rate)
- Armed Forces Independence Payment
- If someone else also cares for the same person as you, only one of you can claim Carer's Allowance.

For more information: <https://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance>

#### **Help with carer's allowance:**

If you need help understanding or applying for Carer's allowance please contact Citizens Advice

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

## **Benefits**

### **Universal Credit**

Universal Credit is a payment to help with your living costs. It's paid monthly

You may be eligible to get Universal Credit if:

- you're on a low income or out of work
- you're 18 or over (there are some exceptions if you're 16 to 17)
- you're under State Pension age (or your partner is)
- you and your partner have £16,000 or less in savings between you
- you live in the UK

The number of children you have does not affect your eligibility for Universal Credit, but it may affect how much you get.

#### **If you're studying full-time**

You can also make a claim if you're in full-time further education and any of the following apply:

- you do not have parental support and you're not under local authority care
- you have limited capability for work and you're entitled to Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- you're responsible for a child
- you're in a couple with responsibility for a child and your partner is eligible for Universal Credit

#### **If you already get other benefits**

Universal Credit is replacing the following benefits:

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

If you currently get any of these benefits, you do not need to do anything unless:

- you have a change of circumstances you need to report
- the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) contacts you about moving to Universal Credit

for further information <https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit>