

Universal Credit Students Guide

Academic Year
2023-24

MAKING
LEARNING
WORK

Forth
Valley
College

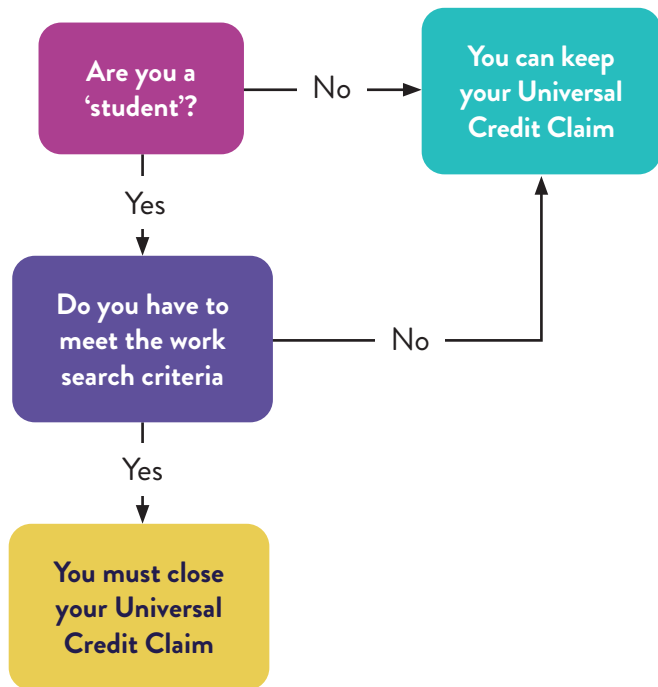


UNIVERSAL CREDIT STUDENTS GUIDE

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24

Universal Credit (UC) has been gradually rolled-out across Scotland to replace six other benefits (Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Employment and Support Allowance, Job Seekers Allowance, Income Support and Housing Benefit), although some people will remain on these 'legacy benefits.'

Some students may be eligible for student support funding whilst receiving Universal Credit.



ARE YOU A 'STUDENT'?

You are considered a student for UC if you are:

- In full-time non-advanced education, which you started when you were under the age of 19, OR
- On a full-time course of advanced education, OR
- On another full-time course for which a loan, grant, or bursary is provided for your maintenance.

DO YOU HAVE TO MEET THE WORK-SEARCH CRITERIA?

If you claim universal credit (UC), what you have to do in terms of looking for work can range from having no work-related requirements to having to look for full-time work.

To be exempt from meeting the work-search criteria, you must meet **at least one** of the following criteria:

- You are responsible for a child. (Aged under 16 years of age, or 16-19 years of age and in full-time education.)
- You have limited capability for work (assessed by the DWP), and also receive disability living allowance (DLA), or personal independence payments (PIP), or adult disability payments (ADP).

- You are under 21 years of age (or were under 21 years of age when your course started) and without parental support.
- You are a single foster carer (or some single kinship carers), or are in a couple and one of you is a foster parent.
- You are over pension age and your partner has not yet reached that age.
- You have a partner who is not a student, or who is a student and meets one of the above criteria.

YOU MUST CLOSE YOUR UNIVERSAL CREDIT CLAIM

You must contact DWP to inform them that you are starting college and will be closing your claim. Failure to do so may result in an over-payment and the college may withhold your funding.

YOU WILL KEEP YOUR UNIVERSAL CREDIT CLAIM

If you are a Full-Time Further Education (FE) student, you can apply for the Universal Credit Top-Up Bursary (£28/week). This will not impact your UC payments.

If you are a Full-Time Higher Education (HE) student, you must declare your Student Income (loan and bursary) which will be deducted from your UC payments.

Regardless of whether you will remain on UC or not while studying, you must inform DWP that you are entering education. They will then assess your eligibility to remain on UC.

MAKING LEARNING WORK



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