Universal Credit Adviser Grab Sheet

2025/2026 rates

Updated for assessment periods starting 7 April 2025

This reference guide is designed to support welfare rights advisers, case workers and frontline support staff in navigating Universal Credit.

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Practical tools for Universal Credit claimants and the people who support them
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UC Rates Table 2025-2026 (Current Rates)

applicable for assessment periods starting on or after 7/4/2025

Standard Allowance	Single and under 25	£316.98
	Single and 25 or over	£400.14
	Joint claim and both under 25	£497.55
	Joint claim and either person is 25 or over	£628.10

Child Element	First child (born prior to 6 April 2017)	£339.00
	First child (born on or after 6 April 2017) or second child and subsequent child (where an exception or transitional provision applies)	£292.81
Disabled Child Element	Higher rate -if child receives high rate care (DLA) or enhanced daily living (PIP) – also included if child is registered severely sight impaired	£495.87
	Lower rate - any other rate of DLA or PIP	£158.76

Childcare Element	One child - 85% of costs up to a maximum of:	£1031.88
	Two or more children - 85% of costs up to a maximum of:	£1768.94

Limited Capability for Work Element	LCW (if in payment)	£158.76
	LCWRA	£423.27

Carers Element	Carers Element	£201.68

NDD	Non-dependents' Deduction (exemptions apply)	£93.02

Work Allowances	Higher work allowance (no housing amount) one or more dependent children or limited capability for work	£684
	Lower work allowance one or more dependent children or limited capability for work	£411

UC Rates Table 2025-2026 (Current Rates)

applicable for assessment periods starting on or after 7/4/2025

Transitional Element (SDP) Any of the amounts in this section can only be included if the client is eligible for the SDP part.	SDP - Single people with LCWRA SDP - Single people without LCWRA	£143.37 £340.50
	SDP - Joint claims where one member had SDP with LCWRA SDP - Joint claims where one member had SDP without LCWRA	£143.37 £340.50
	SDP - Couples where higher rate of SDP element was included	£483.88
	Enhanced disability premium – Additional amount for single EDP	£91.15
	Enhanced disability premium – Additional amount for couple EDP	£130.22
	Disability premium – Additional amount for single DP	£186.64
	Disability premium – Additional amount for couple DP	£266.94
	Disabled child – Additional amount for disabled children	£192.07

AET amount Light touch earnings threshold	Individual claimant – can be used by one person in joint claim, based on their earnings.	£952
	Joint claimants – the other person who is not earning this can also be placed in light touch based on the joint earnings.	£1534

Benefit Cap Amounts (what is included and exemptions)	Couples (with or without children) or single claimants with a child of qualifying age (Outside Greater London)	£1835
	Single adult households without children (Outside Greater London)	£1229.42
	Couples (with or without children) or single claimants with a child of qualifying age (within Greater London)	£2110.25
	Single adult households without children (within Greater London)	£1413.92
Benefit Cap – in work exemption amount	Monthly equivalent of 16 hours at National Living Wage	£846.00
Child Benefit (for calculating the benefit cap, if relevant)	Eldest or only child (£26.05 weekly)	£112.88
	Any other child (£17.25 weekly)	£74.75

UC Rates Table 2024-2025 (Previous Rates)

applicable for assessment periods starting on or after 8/4/2024

Standard Allowance	Single and under 25	£311.68
	Single and 25 or over	£393.45
	Joint claim and both under 25	£489.23
	Joint claim and either person is 25 or over	£617.60

Child Element	First child (born prior to 6 April 2017)	£333.33
	First child (born on or after 6 April 2017) or second child and subsequent child (where an exception or transitional provision applies)	£287.92
Disabled Child Element	Higher rate -if child receives high rate care (DLA) or enhanced daily living (PIP) – also included if child is registered severely sight impaired	£487.58
	Lower rate - any other rate of DLA or PIP	£156.11

Childcare Element	One child - 85% of costs up to a maximum of:	£1014.63
	Two or more children - 85% of costs up to a maximum of:	£1739.37

Limited Capability for Work Element	LCW (if in payment)	£156.11
	LCWRA	£416.19

Carers Element	Carers Element	£198.31

NDD	Non-dependents' Deduction (exemptions apply)	£91.47

Work Allowances	Higher work allowance (no housing amount) one or more dependent children or limited capability for work	£673.00
	Lower work allowance one or more dependent children or limited capability for work	£404.00

UC Rates Table 2024-2025 (Previous Rates)

applicable for assessment periods starting on or after 8/4/2024

Transitional Element (SDP) Any of the amounts in this section can only be included if the client is eligible for the SDP part.	SDP - Single people with LCWRA SDP - Single people without LCWRA	£140.97 £334.81
	SDP - Joint claims where one member had SDP with LCWRA SDP - Joint claims where one member had SDP without LCWRA	£140.97 £334.81
	SDP - Couples where higher rate of SDP element was included	£475.79
	Enhanced disability premium – Additional amount for single EDP	£89.63
	Enhanced disability premium – Additional amount for couple EDP	£128.04
	Disability premium – Additional amount for single DP	£183.52
	Disability premium – Additional amount for couple DP	£262.48
	Disabled child – Additional amount for disabled children	£188.86

AET amount Light touch earnings threshold since 13th May 2024	Individual claimant – can be used by one person in joint claim, based on their earnings.	£892.00
	Joint claimants – the other person who is not earning this can also be placed in light touch based on the joint earnings.	£1437.00

Benefit Cap Amounts (what is included and exemptions)	Couples (with or without children) or single claimants with a child of qualifying age (Outside Greater London)	£1,835.00
	Single adult households without children (Outside Greater London)	£1,229.42
	Couples (with or without children) or single claimants with a child of qualifying age (within Greater London)	£2,110.25
	Single adult households without children (within Greater London)	£1,413.92
Benefit Cap – in work exemption amount	Monthly equivalent of 16 hours at National Living Wage	£793.00
Child Benefit (for calculating the benefit cap, if relevant)	Eldest or only child (£25.60 weekly)	£110.93
	Any other child (£16.95 weekly)	£73.45

Deduction for earnings

Paid monthly	Wage amount (after tax, NI and pension) minus work allowance =? ? x 0.55 = ?? ?? is deduction for earnings
Paid weekly *(some assessment periods will have 4 wages counted and others will have 5 wages counted)*	When 4 wages are counted: Wage amount (after tax, NI and pension) x 4 = ? ? minus work allowance = ?? ?? x 0.55 = ??? ??? is deduction for earnings when 4 wages are counted
	When 5 wages are counted: Wage amount (after tax, NI and pension) x 5 = ? ? minus work allowance = ?? ?? x 0.55 = ??? ??? is deduction for earnings when 5 wages are counted
Paid 2 weekly *(ten assessment periods will have 2 wages counted and two others will have 3 wages counted)*	When 2 wages are counted: Wage amount (after tax, NI and pension) x 2 = ? ? minus work allowance = ?? ?? x 0.55 = ?? ??? is deduction for earnings when 2 wages are counted
	When 3 wages are counted: Wage amount (after tax, NI and pension) x 3 = ? ? minus work allowance = ?? ?? x 0.55 = ??? ??? is deduction for earnings when 3 wages are counted
Paid 4 weekly *(ten assessment periods will have 1 wage counted and two others will have 2 wages counted)*	When 1 wage is counted: Wage amount (after tax, NI and pension) minus work allowance = ? ? x 0.55 = ?? ?? is deduction for earnings
	When 2 wages are counted: Wage amount (after tax, NI and pension) x 2 = ? ? minus work allowance = ?? ?? x 0.55 = ??? ??? is deduction for earnings when 2 wages are counted

Housing element

Council/Housing association (social housing)	**(Weekly rental costs + eligible service charges) x weeks of the year paid ÷ 12 = average monthly rent.** *weeks of the year is always 52 unless there are rent free weeks.*
	Example: someone pays £100 per week and has 2 weeks rent free weeks. 100 x 50 ÷ 12 = £433.33 housing element.
	Minus bedroom tax for "spare rooms". 14% deduction for 1 spare room : average monthly rent x 0.86 = housing element. 25% deduction for 2+ spare rooms : average monthly rent x 0.75 = housing element. Non-dependent deduction applies to housing element, where relevant. Joint tenants (who are not the clients partner) are not part of the same benefit unit so do not count towards the claimants calculation. Lodgers do NOT count towards bedroom calculation nor are they a non-dependent. Lodger income is disregarded.
Private rent	**Weekly LHA rate ÷ 7 x 365 ÷ 12 = monthly LHA rate.** If their actual rent is less they will get their rent. *LHA rate is always based on the bedroom entitlement and we do not need to consider the number of bedrooms they have.*
	Example 1: Monthly LHA rate is £700 per month and actual rent is £500, their housing element is £500. Example 2: Monthly LHA rate is £700 and actual rent is £900, their housing element is £700. Non-dependent deduction applies to housing element, where relevant.
	Non-dependent deduction applies to housing element, where relevant. Joint tenants (who are not the client's partner) are not part of the same benefit unit so do not count towards the claimant's calculation. Lodgers do NOT count towards bedroom calculation nor are they a non-dependent. Lodger income is disregarded.
Shared ownership	**Full monthly rent and eligible service charges.** *No bedroom tax and we do not need to consider number of bedrooms or LHA rate.* Non-dependent deduction applies to housing element, where relevant. Lodgers do NOT count towards bedroom calculations nor are they a non-dependent, Lodger income is disregarded.

Conditionality and Labour Market Regimes

No work	Working Enough	A claimant whose earnings are over the individual or household Conditionality Earnings Threshold or, gainfully self-employed and the Minimum Income Floor applies.
	No Work-Related Requirements	Applies to claimants who are: • assessed as having LCWRA • over State Pension Age • in full time education with student income deduction • without parental support (under 21) and in full-time non-advanced education or training. • a lone parent or lead parent, with a child under the age of one • adopters in the first year • pregnant and it is 11 weeks or less before their expected week of confinement or within 15 weeks of child's birth • entitled to carers element
Work focused Interview only	Work Focused Interview	A claimant who is expected to work in the future but are currently nominated as lead carers for children. This includes • lead carers where the youngest child is aged one • lead foster carers and in some cases their partner carer
Work Preparation	Work Preparation	A claimant who is expected to work in the future but not expected to look for work at this stage. Applies to claimants who are: • assessed as having LCW • lone parent or lead parent, with youngest child aged 2
All Work-Related Requirements	Light Touch	Claimants with earnings above AET, but below CET
	Intensive Work Search	A claimant who is not working and those working but are earning very low amounts and expected to take intensive action to secure work or work more. Applies to claimants who are: • claimants with a health condition and a current fit note who have not yet been assessed by the Work Capability Assessment process. • claimants gainfully self-employed and in the Start–up Period • lead carers whose youngest child is aged 3 - 4 will be moved to the Intensive Work Search regime (age 3 – 12 is 30 hours, age 13+ 35 hours)

Miscellaneous

Working out relevant capital in another property, which has not been disregarded	Current market value (the amount that the person would obtain selling the property now) Always deduct 10% of the current market value rate (regardless of whether the property is up for sale) Deduct the value of any mortgage or loans set against the property. The amount remaining is the regarded capital value for UC purposes. If the property is jointly owned, then divide by 2.
	Example: Client jointly owns a house with their ex-partner. Assuming no disregard applies. The house would sell at £200,000. Mortgage outstanding is £150,000. £200,000 minus 10% is £180,000, £180,000 minus £150,000 leaves £30,000. As the property is jointly owned, divide by 2. This leaves regarded capital of £15,000 which would cause a deduction of £160.95 per month on Universal Credit.

Support for Mortgage Interest Loan (SMI)	You should not advise the client whether they accept the SMI Loan or not, but you can tell them about it. UC will send them information when they claim if they indicate that they have a mortgage or loan set against their property. The claim form does ask under housing costs. This is not factored in the UC calculation or the statement, it is paid directly to the lender, after the 3-month waiting period if CL wants to apply for it. Rates are set by the Bank of England and reviewed quarterly. The current rate is 3.66%. This changes quarterly. *Correct as at 16/03/2025.* SMI considers mortgage and loans taken out for certain repairs and improvements to your home. The maximum amount of mortgage and loan that UC will consider is £200,000.
	Example 1: £100,000 x 0.0366 = 3660, 3660 ÷ 12 = £305.00, paid to the lender. Example 2: £75,000 x 0.0366 = 2745, 2745 ÷ 12 = £228.75, paid to the lender.

Deduction for capital – assumed yield

From	To	Deduction for UC
£0.00	£6,000.00	**NIL**
£6,000.01	£6,250.00	**£4.35**
£6,250.01	£6,500.00	**£8.70**
£6,500.01	£6,750.00	**£13.05**
£6,750.01	£7,000.00	**£17.40**
£7,000.01	£7,250.00	**£21.75**
£7,250.01	£7,500.00	**£26.10**
£7,500.01	£7,750.00	**£30.45**
£7,750.01	£8,000.00	**£34.80**
£8,000.01	£8,250.00	**£39.15**
£8,250.01	£8,500.00	**£43.50**
£8,500.01	£8,750.00	**£47.85**
£8,750.01	£9,000.00	**£52.20**
£9,000.01	£9,250.00	**£56.55**
£9,250.01	£9,500.00	**£60.90**
£9,500.01	£9,750.00	**£65.25**
£9,750.01	£10,000.00	**£69.60**
£10,000.01	£10,250.00	**£73.95**
£10,250.01	£10,500.00	**£78.30**
£10,500.01	£10,750.00	**£82.65**
£10,750.01	£11,000.00	**£87.00**

From	To	Deduction for UC
£11,000.01	£11,250.00	**£91.35**
£11,250.01	£11,500.00	**£95.70**
£11,500.01	£11,750.00	**£100.05**
£11,750.01	£12,000.00	**£104.40**
£12,000.01	£12,250.00	**£108.75**
£12,250.01	£12,500.00	**£113.10**
£12,500.01	£12,750.00	**£117.45**
£12,750.01	£13,000.00	**£121.80**
£13,000.01	£13,250.00	**£126.15**
£13,250.01	£13,500.00	**£130.50**
£13,500.01	£13,750.00	**£134.85**
£13,750.01	£14,000.00	**£139.20**
£14,000.01	£14,250.00	**£143.55**
£14,250.01	£14,500.00	**£147.90**
£14,500.01	£14,750.00	**£152.25**
£14,750.01	£15,000.00	**£156.60**
£15,000.01	£15,250.00	**£160.95**
£15,250.01	£15,500.00	**£165.30**
£15,500.01	£15,750.00	**£169.65**
£15,750.01	£16,000.00	**£174.00**
£16,000.01	-	**no entitlement**

Administrative Earnings Thresholds (AET)

The Administrative Earnings Threshold is relevant when looking at light touch for commitments and also when transitional protection ends *(see next page)*.	
From 1st April 2025	Individual £952 Couple £1,534
13th May 2024 – 31st March 2025	Individual £892 Couple £1,437
1st April 2024 - 12th May 2024	Individual £743 Couple £1,189
1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024	Individual £677 Couple £1,083
20th January 2023 – 31st March 2023	Individual £617 Couple £988
26th September 2022 – 29th January 2023	Individual £494 Couple £782

When transitional protection ends

All kinds	When a joint claim becomes a single claim, or a single claim becomes a joint claim, *or* Their earnings are above AET amount when they claim UC, but then anytime during the UC claim, their earnings fall below the AET for 3 consecutive months – *see AET table and relevant date*.
Student	A student will be allowed to complete any course they were participating in on the day before they made their claim but deductions for student income will apply, as normal. The transitional protection is removing the need to satisfy student exception. If their claim to Universal Credit is closed and they are still a student, when their course ends and they try to claim again, the normal student eligibility rules will apply. The only exception to this is if their claim is closed due to earnings. In these cases, if a further Universal Credit claim is made within 3 months, the student disregard can be applied again.
Capital	If someone has over £16,000 in capital, both their transitional protection and their Universal Credit claim will end after 12 assessment periods (one year). Their transitional protection will end earlier if their capital drops below £16,000. At that point, their claim will be treated as a normal Universal Credit claim. During the transitional protection period, capital or savings between £6,000 and £16,000 is treated normally (see deduction table). Capital or savings above £16,000 is disregarded. **Example:** If the claimant has £20,000, the amount up to £16,000 is counted, and the £4,000 above £16,000 is disregarded. So, they are treated as having £16,000 and **will have a deduction of £174 per month**. If their capital falls to £16,000 or below and later increases again within the 12 assessment periods, the disregard is not reapplied. They will no longer be eligible for Universal Credit due to excess capital. ***Your client should not try to reduce their capital to increase their entitlement to Universal Credit – this is classed as deprivation of capital.*** If the claim is closed due to earnings before the 12 assessment periods are up, and they reclaim within 3 months, the exception to the £16,000 rule continues. This applies until they've spent 12 assessment periods on Universal Credit in total. **Example:** If the claimant: • Spends 8 assessment periods on Universal Credit • Then has their claim closed due to earnings • Reclaims within 4 months of the end of the last assessment period they were paid for ○ They can receive Universal Credit for another 4 months with capital above £16,000. If their claim ends due to earnings at the same time as they reach 12 assessment periods, the exception to the £16,000 rule will not apply if they reclaim.

When transitional element erodes

The Transitional Element is **not time limited**, but the amount can reduce as other elements of the Universal Credit award increase.
This could happen when:

- There is an increase to the Universal Credit maximum award due to uprating of the **Standard Allowance** or another element *(excluding the Childcare Costs Element).*
- A new Universal Credit element (such as support with housing costs) is awarded *(again, excluding Childcare Costs)*

The Transitional Element **cannot begin to erode until the second assessment period** after the claimant starts receiving Universal Credit payments.
Once erosion begins, it reduces alongside any increase to the Universal Credit maximum amount. This erosion occurs **in the same assessment period** as the increase is paid.

Additional Rules

- An increase in earnings does not erode the Transitional Element.
- The Transitional Element is not uprated.
- However, it is eroded by uprating of all other Universal Credit elements, except Childcare Costs.
- Once fully eroded, the Transitional Element cannot be reinstated, unless there's a recalculation or successful appeal.
- It will no longer appear from the assessment period in which it reaches £0.

Example of Transitional Element Erosion

A claimant is part of managed migration and receives a Universal Credit award of £1000.
Their Standard Allowance and additional elements for housing and children add up to £880
They also receive £120 in Transitional Element
The Transitional Element appears separately on their UC statement.
So, their total award is: £880 + £120 TP = £1000

Assessment Period 1:
Universal Credit = £1000 (£880 + £120 TP)

In the next assessment period:

- The claimant reports a change in housing costs
- The change is verified, and since they haven't reached the Local Housing Allowance limit, their housing element increases by £50

Because the Universal Credit maximum award increased by £50, the Transitional Element reduces by £50.
Their Transitional Element becomes £70, and their total UC award remains £1000.

Assessment Period 2:
Universal Credit = £1000 (£930 + £70 TP)

Advance Limits

UC guidance states that new claim advances and benefit advances should be limited to:

- maximum entitlement to UC before deductions, or
- 360% of standard allowance, **whichever is lowest**

Standard Allowance	360% of Standard Allowance	
	2024/2025	2025/2026
Single and under 25	£1,122.04	£1,141.12
Single and 25 or over	£1,416.42	£1,440.50
Joint claim and both under 25	£1,761.22	£1,791.18
Joint claim and either person is 25 or over	£2,223.36	£2,261.16

Your payment this month is £XXXX This will be paid by 8pm on (payment date)	
What you're entitled to	
Standard Allowance	£(*amount)*
Child Element	£(*amount)*
Disabled Child Element	£(*amount)*
Childcare Element	£(*amount)*
LCW / LCWRA	£(*amount)*
Carers Element	£(*amount)*
Housing Element	£(*amount)*
Transitional Protection	£(*amount)*
Total UC entitlement before deduction	***£(total amount of above element)***
What we take off (deductions)	£(amount)
Take-home pay	- £(*amount)*
Take-home pay is what's left after tax, National Insurance and any pension contributions have been deductions. Earnings reported by your employer *£(wages amount)*	
Other benefits	- £(*amount)*
Deduction for benefit cap	- £(*amount)*
Sanction deduction	- £(*amount)*
Advance repayment	- £(*amount)*
Deductions for other debts	- £(*amount)*
Payment to landlord	- £(*amount)*
Total deductions	*- £(total deductions)*
Your total payment for this month is	*- £(total UC entitlement before deductions – total deductions)*

We're building this resource for you.
Got suggestions or ideas? we'd love to hear from you.

Email us at info@uceplus.co.uk

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