

Check if you can get Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)

Universal Credit has replaced JSA income based for most people

You might be able to get Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) while you look for a full-time job. You can get it while you're out of work, or if you're working less than 16 hours a week.

There are 3 types of JSA:

- income-based
- contribution-based
- 'new style' JSA

They pay the same personal allowance, but the application process is different. Use this page to check if you can get JSA, and which type you need to claim.

If you're from the EU or European Economic Area

You'll need to prove different things about your life here, if you're from the EU or European Economic Area (EEA).

You'll need to give evidence to show:

- the UK, Ireland, Channel Islands or Isle of Man is your main home and you plan to stay - this is known as being 'habitually resident'
- you have a right to claim benefits in the UK - this is called a 'right to reside' and depends on things like your work, family and personal situation
- you've lived in the UK, Ireland, Channel Islands or Isle of Man for the last 3 months - this is called the '3-month living in test'

Check if you have a right to reside

It's best to [check if you have a right to reside first](#). If you have a right to reside, you might not need to show you're habitually resident.

You'll also need to show you've lived here for the last 3 months - this is called the '3-month living in test'.

Universal Credit has replaced Jobseeker's Allowance income based (JSA) for most people. You can make a new claim for JSA if you're getting, or recently stopped getting, a benefit with a severe disability premium (SDP).

You might be getting an SDP with:

- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Housing Benefit

Check your award letter to see if you're getting an SDP.

If you recently stopped getting a benefit with an SDP and you're still eligible for an SDP, you can make a new claim for JSA. You must claim within a month of your old benefit stopping.

If you're eligible for an SDP but it's not included in your current benefit, [contact](#) our Advice Team

Check you meet the basic conditions

You can usually claim JSA if you're 18 or over and under State Pension age and are:

working less than 16 hours a week
available to work full time
actively looking for full-time work
not in full-time education
not claiming Income Support
don't have an illness or disability which means you can't work

You can't normally get JSA if you're under 18, but there are some exceptions. Check with our Advice Team.

Check if you can get 'new style' JSA (contribution based)

You can usually get 'new style' JSA for up to 6 months if you:

- meet [the basic conditions](#)
- have worked and paid Class 1 National Insurance in the last 2 to 3 years

Contribution conditions

To get new style JSA, you need to have both:

- worked for at least 26 weeks earning more than the 'the lower earnings limit' in at least one of the 2 previous tax years prior to the start of the current benefit year
- paid Class 1 National Insurance on the equivalent of 50 weeks' work at the 'lower earnings limit' during each of the 2 previous tax years prior to the start of the current benefit year

Check if you can get contribution-based JSA

It's best to claim contribution-based JSA if you can. This is because your savings, capital, and partner's income won't affect your claim.

You can usually get contribution-based JSA for up to 6 months if you:

- meet the basic conditions
- have worked and paid National Insurance during the last 2 years

If you can't get new style JSA

Check if you're eligible for Universal Credit - if you are, you'll need to apply for that instead.

How much JSA you'll get

Each type of JSA pays the same 'personal allowance' each week - if you're eligible, you can get up to:

- £57.90 if you're 18 to 24
- £73.10 if you're 25 or over
- £114.85 if you claim income-related JSA as a couple

The exact amount you get will depend on your circumstances - for example, if you work part-time your payment might be less.

You can get extra payments on top of your personal allowance in some cases - these are called 'premiums'. You get a premium if you claim income-based JSA and you or your partner are:

- disabled
- a carer getting Carer's Allowance
- over the State Pension age for a woman

You need to claim income-based JSA to get these premiums - you can claim both types of JSA if you need to. You'll only get one personal allowance, but you'll get the premiums you're entitled to as part of income-based JSA.