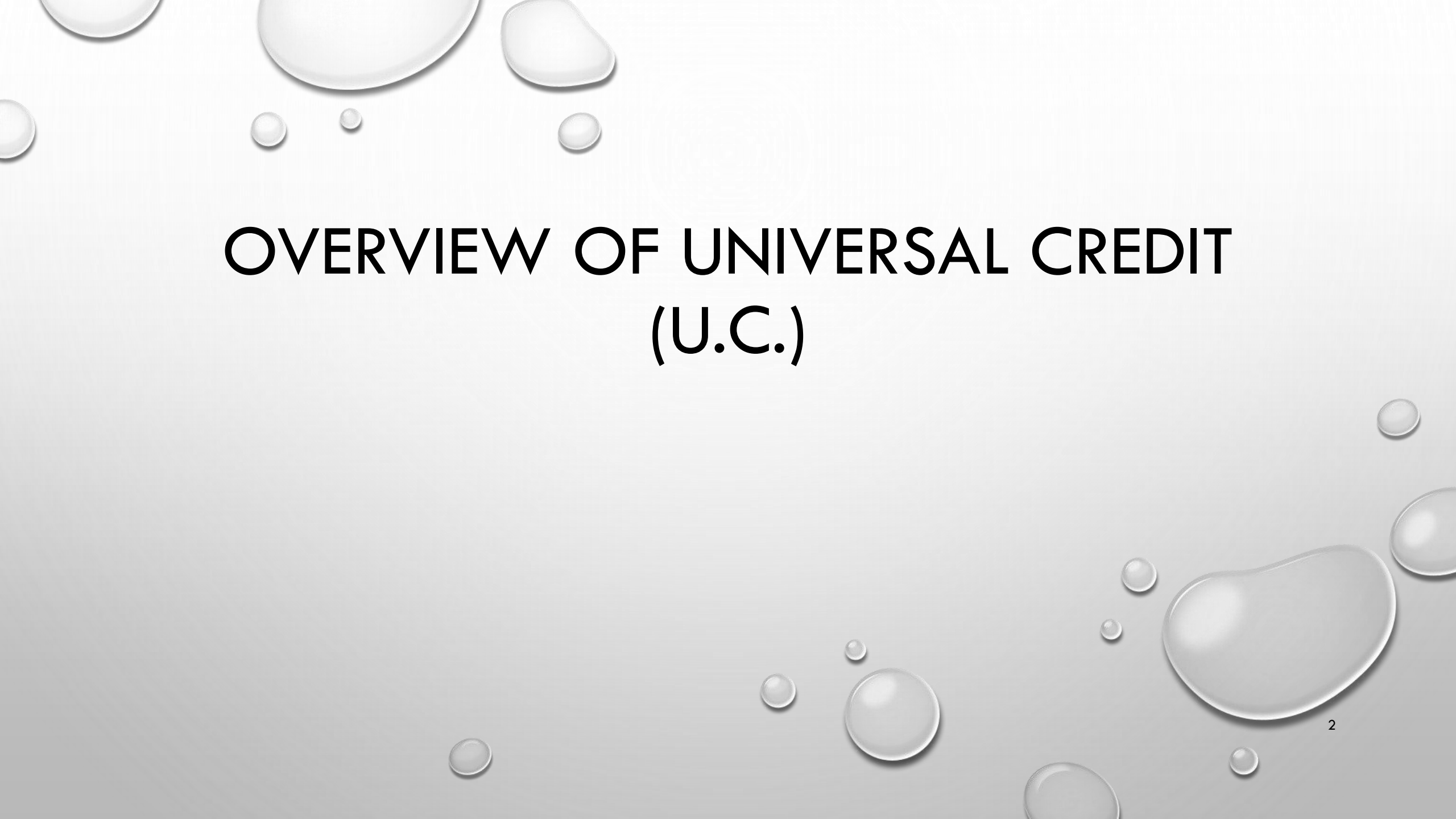


# POST 16 BENEFITS WORKSHOP

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MANAGER

CARERS' SUPPORT (BEXLEY)

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# OVERVIEW OF UNIVERSAL CREDIT (U.C.)

- UC is a payment to help with living costs. It's paid monthly to people who're on a low income, out of work or cannot work.
- It replaces the following benefits; Child Tax Credit, Housing Benefit, Income support, Income-based JSA, Income-related ESA and Working Tax Credit.
- This means that any new person who would have claimed ESA will now claim UC.
- Claiming UC doesn't affect entitlement to DLA or PIP.
- You must be over 18 but there are exceptions.
- You must have £16,000 or less in money, savings and investments.
- A claim is made up of a standard allowance. To calculate if any extra amounts could be due, use a benefits calculator.
- You may find [entitledto.co.uk](http://entitledto.co.uk) or [turn2us.org.uk](http://turn2us.org.uk) good calculators to try.

- You can apply for UC online.
- You need to create an account and use this to make a claim. The claimant needs to have an email address. Make an online claim via the gov.uk web site.
- If you cannot claim online, you can claim by phone through the UC helpline. Call 0800 328 5644.
- The Citizens Advice are also commissioned by DWP to support UC claimants under the “Help to Claim” scheme. Call 0808 2505 709 or use their web site [bexleycab.org.uk](http://bexleycab.org.uk).
- When claiming, in addition to personal details, you’ll need your bank details, ID, how a health condition or disability affects your ability to work/not work and savings and investment details.
- You may be called in for a face to face appointment likely at Bexleyheath Job Centre if UC require more information. Sometimes this appointment can be done by phone.
- Part of claiming UC is agreeing to a “Claimant Commitment” with an allocated work coach. What you need to do depends on your situation.
- You then use your UC account and an online “journal” to keep in touch with your work coach electronically to ask any questions or report any changes.

- Part of claiming UC as someone who is disabled or has a health condition is having to provide a fit note from your GP saying that you can't work.
- You do this at the beginning of the process and upload a copy of the fit note onto your UC journal.
- You will also have to have an assessment to decide if you have limited capability for work.
- You will be sent a UC50 form to complete which is the equivalent of an ESA50 under ESA. Graham has some guidance notes on how to best provide the information asked for.
- The standard monthly amount if you're single and under 25 is £311.68. If you're single and over 25 it's £393.45 monthly.
- If after completion of the UC50, you are found to qualify for the limited capability for work related activity element, the extra monthly award is £416.19.

## Managed Migration

- Managed migration is the process by which DWP transfers people with live claims for existing benefits e.g. ESA to UC. Natural migration occurs when a claimant of legacy benefits (e.g. housing benefit or income support) has a change in circumstances which means that they are no longer entitled to that benefit and have to claim UC.
- The main difference between natural migration and managed migration is transitional protection. The Government have committed that there will be no cash losers at the point of moving to UC (assuming no change of circumstances) for those who are part of managed migration. If you migrate naturally you will not have access to any transitional protection.
- The basic idea is that a managed migrated claimant who would be entitled to less under UC than under their legacy benefit (ESA) will get the difference made up in their UC.
- Managed migration is now being widely rolled out across the UK.
- The DWP will write to you to tell you what to do when it's your turn. Do not ignore any letter you receive from the DWP.

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# **OVERVIEW OF DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCE (DSA)**

## Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)

- These are not means tested. An Award is determined on your individual needs and not your household income.
- A DSA is support to cover the study related costs you have because of a mental health problem, long term illness or any other disability.
- It can be paid on its own or in addition to any student finance you get.
- You don't need to repay a DSA.
- For the current academic 2024/24 year, awards are up to £26,948.00.
- A DSA can help with the costs of specialist equipment, non medical helpers, extra travel costs and disability related study support. You may also qualify for a new computer.
- To be eligible you must have a disability that affects your ability to study such as a specific learning disability, mental health condition, physical disability, sensory disability or long term health condition.



## DSA


- Eligibility must be proved with a copy of a report or letter from your Doctor or consultant or a copy of a diagnostic assessment. Extra help could be provided to cover the cost of a new and up-to-date diagnostic assessment.
- You must also be an undergraduate or postgraduate student including the Open University or distance learning, qualify for student finance from Student Finance England and studying on a course that lasts for at least a year.
- You need a Student Finance England account to apply but don't need to apply for Student Finance if you don't need to.
- Confirmation of an award takes up to about 6 weeks and can take up to 14 weeks to be paid.

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# OVERVIEW OF PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENTS (PIP)

## Personal Independence Payments (PIP)

- You will be “invited” to claim PIP near to when a DLA claim is coming to an end.
- There is NO LINK and so no automatic transfer process between any existing DLA claim and a new claim for PIP. They are two separate benefits. The DWP therefore treat a new claim for PIP as an application from a brand new person who has never claimed a disability benefit before.
- A first PIP claim is simply that and should be treated as the first time that the DWP have received a claim for that person who is totally unknown to them. This applies even if you have an indefinite award for DLA.
- This means that there are no rules around transferring from DLA to PIP; if you don't apply when “invited” then the DLA claim will stop and no disability benefit will replace it.
- To claim PIP call the DWP to start/register a claim and complete part one of the form with them over the phone. Someone else can do this on behalf of the claimant if they have been officially appointed to deal with their claims. Otherwise, the claimant needs to be present to confirm their identity during this phone call.
- In some situations, part one of the form can be posted to you and you can request this during this first phone call or request in writing to the DWP by letter.
- **The Phone number to start the claim process for PIP is 0800 917 2222**

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# OVERVIEW OF ACCESS TO WORK

- Access to work can help you get or stay in work if you have a physical or mental health condition or disability.
- The support you get will depend on your needs. You can apply for a grant to help pay for practical support with your work, support managing your mental health at work and money to pay for communication support at a job interview.
- Your workplace can include your home if you work from there some or all of the time.
- It does not matter how much you earn. If you get a grant, it will not affect any other benefits you get and you don't have to pay it back.
- You or your employer may need to pay some costs up front and claim them back later.

- To apply for support, use the gov.uk web site and follow the link for [access-to-work/apply](#).
- Access to work will not pay for reasonable adjustments which are changes your employer must legally make to support you to do your job.
- Access to work will advise your employer if changes should be made as reasonable adjustments.
- You must be 16 or over and be in paid work or be about to start or return to paid work.
- You must have a disability, illness or health condition that means you need support to do your job.
- You do not need to be diagnosed with a condition to apply for mental health support.

A disability, illness or health condition can include;

- A physical disability
- A learning disability
- A developmental condition
- Learning difficulties or differences
- An illness such as diabetes or epilepsy
- A temporary condition like a broken leg
- A mental health condition (wording taken from Gov.uk)
- You only need to evidence your condition if you're applying for help with transport costs.
- You cannot get Access to Work for a voluntary role.

- Call the Access to work helpline if you need support to see if you're eligible. Call 0800 121 7479.
- You can also request communication by email.
- You can also apply by phone using the same number.
- Or you can apply online using the gov.uk web site.
- After you have applied, someone from Access to Work will contact you to talk about your application.
- Once your award is successful, you'll receive a decision letter explaining how to claim the money.
- You or your employer may need to pay for the support you need at first. Your letter will tell you how to claim money back and so keep your receipts and invoices as evidence.
- You need to renew your grant before it ends and can do this up to 12 weeks beforehand.



## FINALLY.....

The good news is that WE CAN HELP! Phone 0208 302 8011 and ask to talk to myself, Felicity, or my colleague, Claire Hunt.

We cannot help with applications for either UC, Access to Work or DSA. However, we have knowledge of generic UC issues and can give basic guidance. Remember to talk to the Citizens Advice for help to claim UC or go straight to the UC helpline.



I hope that this has been of use to you and  
informative.

Any questions?

Thanks for listening!