

BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS OVER THE SUMMER

Full Time Students

As a general rule full time students are not allowed to claim means tested benefits. However over the summer vacation some full time students are allowed to claim benefits like Universal Credit, or if you are not in an area where there is a full Universal Credit service, Income Support, Job Seekers' Allowance, Employment Support Allowance and Housing Benefit.

The benefits relevant to you will depend on your individual circumstances.

Student Funding over the Summer

If you are an undergraduate on a student funding package the student loan and grants are only expected to support you for the weeks of the academic year. Here at UCLAN this runs from September until the end of June. If you are entitled to claim means tested benefits then student grants and loans will not count as income over the summer and in many cases this will leave you entitled to benefits. We recommend that you put in the relevant application in the middle of June.

NHS and Social Work bursaries are counted as income for the whole 52 weeks of the year so will count in any summer claim for benefits. This makes it less likely that you will qualify for benefits but it may still be worth applying.

Universal Credit (UC)

Some students are now being transferred to Universal Credit if you make a claim for additional support over the summer, depending on the area you live in. If you are already receiving UC the amount you receive should be adjusted over the summer to reflect a change in student income.

Once you are assessed for Universal Credit, you cannot choose go back to claiming other benefits, so it is important to seek advice before making a claim for the summer as a transfer onto UC may mean you could be worse off in the long term.

Income Support

If you are a single parent with a child under the age of 5 you should be able to claim Income Support.

If you are in receipt of Incapacity Benefit you should be able to claim Income Support.

Job Seekers Allowance

If you are a lone parent whose youngest child is above the new limits for Income Support you should be entitled to claim JSA during the summer vacation if you are unable to find work.

If you are a couple with children and both of you are students one of you should make a claim for JSA during the summer vacation.

Employment Support Allowance

If you are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance or PIP you should be able to claim Employment Support Allowance (Income Based) over the summer vacation.

Housing Benefit

The following people can all claim Housing Benefit over the summer vacation.

- Lone Parents
- Student couples with children
- Those incapable of work for longer than 196 days

- Those in receipt of Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment
- Deaf students in receipt of Disabled Students' Allowance
- Those who are registered blind

Working and Working Tax Credit

Full time students are allowed to claim Tax Credits. The following people can all claim Working Tax Credit:

Single parents working at least 16 hours per week
Disabled people working at least 16 hours per week
Anyone over 25 working at least 30 hours per week.

A claimant in a couple who is responsible for a child or qualifying young person must be in qualifying remunerative work and be ordinarily resident in the UK and meet the immigration conditions. They must also:-

be aged 16 or over and at least one of the couple must work 16 hours or more a week and the couple must work 24 hours or more a week between them in total.

The job must be expected to last at least 4 weeks.

This means that if you are aged over 25 and doing a full time summer vacation job you may be entitled to claim Working Tax Credit for the summer vacation as well.

Benefits Advice

Whether or not a student is entitled to benefits is a complex and confusing area. The Student Union Advice and Representation Centre has trained advisors who can identify which benefits you may be entitled to and estimate what you may receive.

We strongly recommend that all students obtain advice relating to their circumstances before making a claim for any benefit.

