

Universal Credit 2 Child Limit

From 6 April 2017, most people will only get the child amount of Universal Credit for up to two children (unless an exception applies).

In general, claimants will be entitled to an additional amount for any child born before 6 April 2017. Please see the flowcharts for full details.

You will still get any child amounts of Universal Credit in payment before 6 April 2017.

The following flowcharts are to help you understand what you can claim.

You will find more information on the 2 child limit [here](#).

[Flowcharts >](#)

UC Universal
Credit

Opening up work_

Universal Credit 2 Child Limit



Claiming Universal Credit
I have 2 or less children

[Find out more >](#)



Claiming Universal Credit
I have 3 or more children and
**have been receiving
Universal Credit in the
last six months**

[Find out more >](#)



Claiming Universal Credit
I have 3 or more children and
**have NOT been receiving
Universal Credit in the
last six months**

[Find out more >](#)

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Definition of a 'Child' in Universal Credit: a child is anyone aged up to 16, or up to 19 if they are in education or training.

Claiming Universal Credit

I have 2 or less children

You can apply for [Universal Credit online](#) - subject to the usual entry criteria.

If you already have two children and then you have another child or become responsible for another child born on or after 6th April 2017, we will not pay an additional child amount of Universal Credit for that child unless an exception applies.

If you become responsible for a child born before 6 April 2017, through adoption or as part of a friend and family care arrangement, and you already have a second child born on or after 6 April 2017, we won't automatically pay an additional amount for the new child added. This is because we'll continue to pay for the second child who is born on or after 6 April 2017. We would still pay for the new child added if an exception applies.



OR LESS

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If you need further information on the 2 child limit in Universal Credit please [click here](#).

[Exceptions >](#)

Claiming Universal Credit

I have 3 or more children and have been receiving Universal Credit in the last six months

You can make a re-claim to Universal Credit by either:

- logging on to your online account if you have one (full service Universal Credit)
- calling the Service Centre on 0345 600 0723 if you don't have an online account (live service Universal Credit)

The child amounts you received when you last claimed Universal Credit will stay the same so long as your circumstances are the same.

If you have another child or become responsible for another child born on or after 6th April 2017, we will not pay an additional child amount of Universal Credit for that child unless an exception applies.

If you become responsible for a child born before 6 April 2017, through adoption or as part of a friend and family care arrangement, and you already have a second child born on or after 6 April 2017 (that we are paying Universal Credit for) we won't automatically pay an additional amount for the new child added. This is because we'll continue to pay for the child who is born on or after 6 April 2017. We would still pay for the new child added if an exception applies.



OR MORE

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If you need further information on the 2 child limit in Universal Credit please [click here](#).

[Exceptions >](#)

Claiming Universal Credit

I have 3 or more children and have NOT been receiving Universal Credit in the last six months



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You can not currently claim Universal Credit*. You may be able to claim [Child Tax Credits](#), [Housing Benefit](#) and/or other benefits.

From 6 April 2017 claimants will no longer be paid an additional amount of benefit for more than 2 children, unless the children are born before 6 April 2017*, or an exception applies.

***These rules will change in November 2018.**

If you need further information on the 2 child limit in Universal Credit please [click here](#).

[Exceptions >](#)

Exceptions

These exceptions will ONLY APPLY to third or subsequent children.

The exceptions are:

- **Children born in a multiple birth (e.g. twins).**
- **Children who are adopted.**
- **Children who are living with family or friends as their carers.**
- **Children likely to have been conceived as a result of non-consensual sexual act, or at a time when the claimant was subject to ongoing control or coercion by the other parent of the child (abusive relationship).**

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