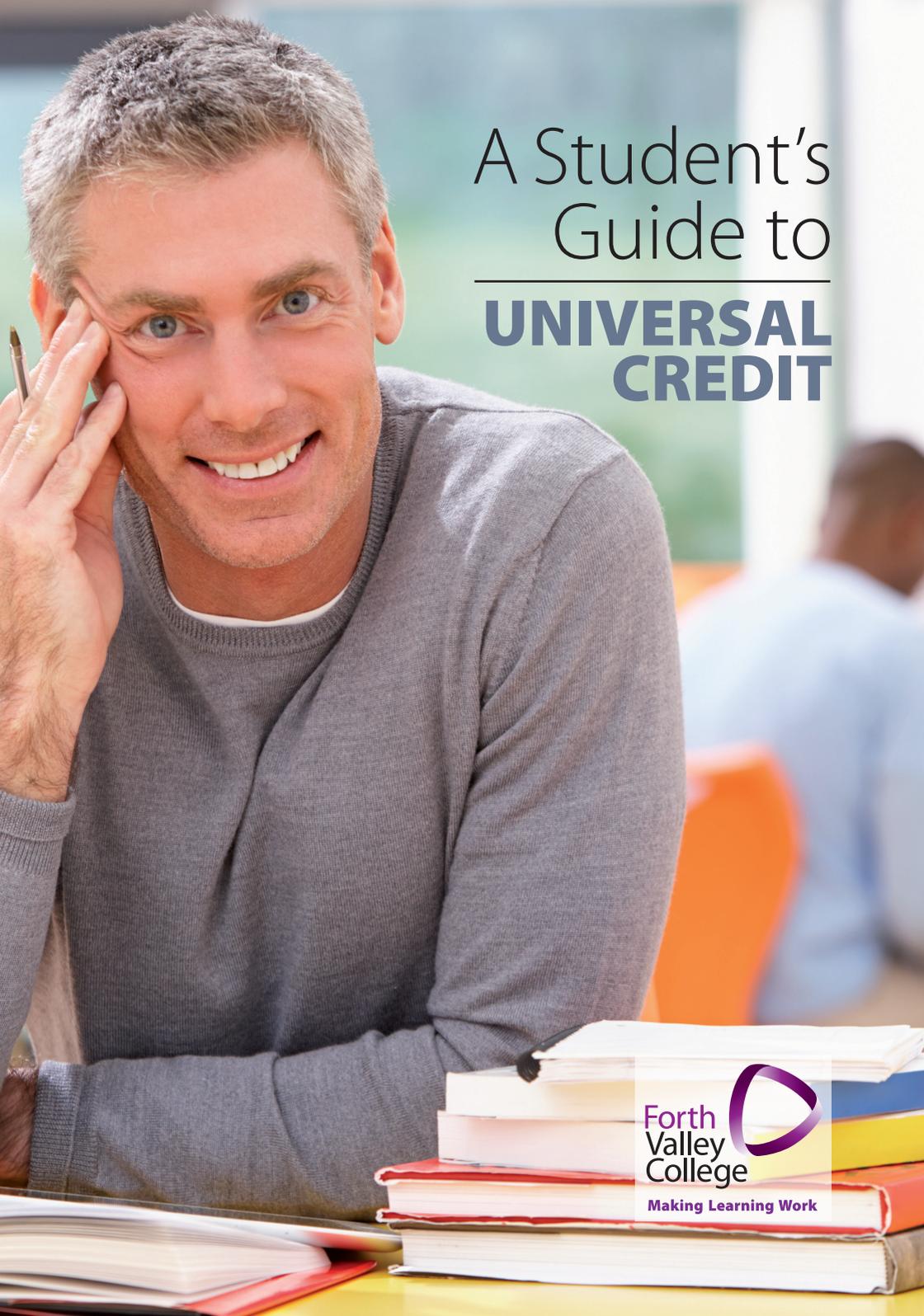


A Student's Guide to

UNIVERSAL CREDIT



Forth
Valley
College



Making Learning Work

Can you stay on Universal Credits while Studying?

Do you count as a student? The answer to this is YES if any of the following are true.

- You are in full time education (over 12 hours a week) and have not yet reached the first 31st August after your 19th birthday
- You are on a full-time course for which bursary is provided for your maintenance
- (If none of the above apply) you are on a course which is not compatible with your work related requirements



So you are a student, so are you eligible for UC?

You are eligible for UC if you are a student and if any of the following statements are true:

- You are responsible for a child
- You are under 21 (or are 21 but were under that age when you started the course) and are without parental support
- You are ill/disabled. You must have limited capability for work (assessed by the DWP) and also get disability living allowance (DLA) or personal independence payment (PIP)
- You are over the qualifying age for state pension credit and your partner has not yet reached that age
- You have a partner who is not a student

No - then you can continue claiming Universal Credit

No - then your Universal Credit Claim stops



So you can get UC as a student, do you have to meet work related requirements?

There are no work-related requirements if any of the following statements are true:

- You are under 21 (or 21 and turned that age on your course) and are without parental support
 - You are in receipt of student income which is taken into account for universal credit (e.g. bursary maintenance)
 - You have a child under one, or are severely disabled (technically if you are in the 'support group')
 - You are pregnant and there are less than 11 weeks before your due date or you had a baby less than 15 weeks ago.
- Or there are limited work-related requirements (which may include attending work focused interviews and/ or undertaking 'work preparation') if:
- You have a child aged 1-4 years old, or
 - You are disabled but not severely (technically if you are in the 'work related activity group')



Do you have Student Income?

Most student income will usually count as income for UC e.g. bursary maintenance allowance is taken into account for UC and the first £110 of student income is disregarded each month. However, there are some elements that are disregarded completely and they are:

- Tuition fees or exam fees
- In respect of your disability
- Extra costs due to residential study away from your usual place of study during term time
- The costs of your normal home (where you live somewhere else during your course) unless those costs are met by your UC
- The maintenance of someone who is not included in your UC claim
- Books, equipment, course travel costs or childcare costs

What is Universal Credit?

Universal Credit (UC) is a means-tested benefit, which has replaced the following benefits: Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance, Income-Based Jobseekers Allowance, Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, Child Tax Credits and Working Tax Credits.

Who is a student for Universal Credit?

- You are in full-time non-advanced education and you are under 19 years old
- You are in a full-time advanced course
- You are on a full-time course where a loan or bursary is provided for maintenance

Which students are eligible to claim Universal Credit?

If you are classed as a student from the above list, you are eligible for UC if you meet one of the following criteria:

- You are responsible for a child
- You are under 21 and are without parental support (or are 21 but were under that age when you started your course)
- You receive DLA or PIP and have limited capability for work
- You are a single parent/foster parent
- Both parents are students and you have a child
- You are over the age for pension credit but your partner has not yet reached the qualifying age
- You have a partner that is not a student

If you are without parental support, you will be in one of the following categories:

- You are an orphan
- You do not live with your parents because you are estranged from them. This can include if you face risk or harm if you lived with parents
- You are living away from your parents, and they are unable to support you financially because they are in prison, are not allowed to enter Britain or are disabled or ill

16 and 17 year olds

If you are aged 16 or 17 and are in education, you can apply for UC if you have a child, are without parental support and in non-advanced education, or are ill or disabled.

If you are a care leaver and are in education you can only claim UC if you have a child or are ill/disabled. You cannot get help for Housing Costs from UC.

What funding is available if you are eligible or receiving UC?

We can assess you for a £28 per week bursary. You can also be assessed for travel, study materials and childcare funding. None of this funding will affect your UC entitlement.

Coming off Universal Credit

If you are receiving UC before your course starts and you do not meet the criteria to remain on this whilst a student, you need to close your claim immediately. Failure to do this may result in an overpayment from DWP and we may also stop your bursary funding.

We are also aware that coming off Universal Credit and waiting for your first Bursary Payment can be difficult to manage. If you find yourself struggling financially contact Student Funding for advice on what can be done to support you.

Change in circumstances

A lot of students circumstances change during their course. These changes can include a change of address, people in the household, income and employment status. Please contact a member of student funding immediately to discuss your circumstances and we will advise you what your new entitlement could be from benefits or college funding. Failure to inform us could result in over-payments from college and/or DWP.

Final Note

Please get in touch with us if you have any queries regarding claiming Universal Credit while at college.

Useful Contacts & Websites

Student Funding Team at FVC	01324 403000 Funding@forthvalley.ac.uk
For more information on Universal Credits	https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit
To apply for Universal Credits	https://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit
Universal Credits Full Service Telephone No	0800 328 5644
To find your local Job Centre Plus	https://find-your-nearest-jobcentre.dwp.gov.uk