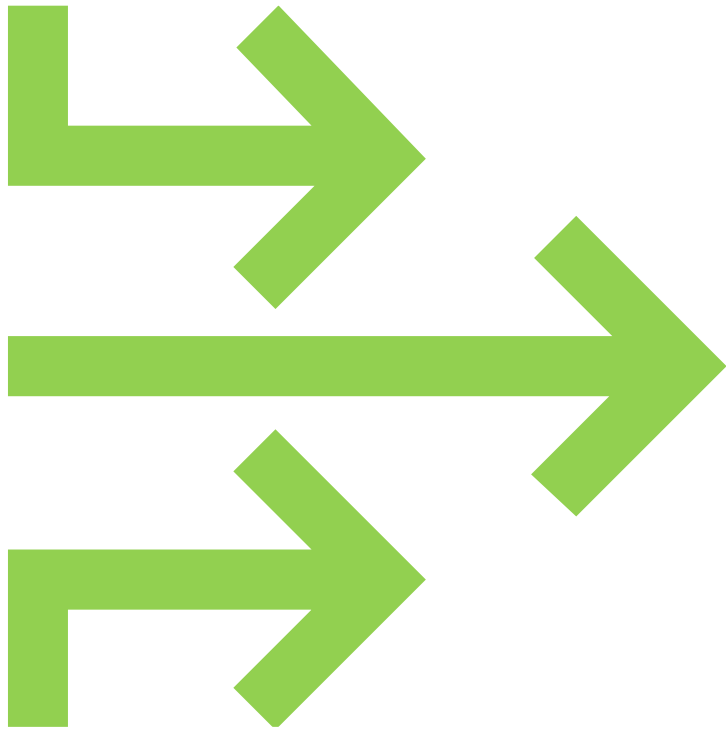




Understanding Universal Credit (UC)

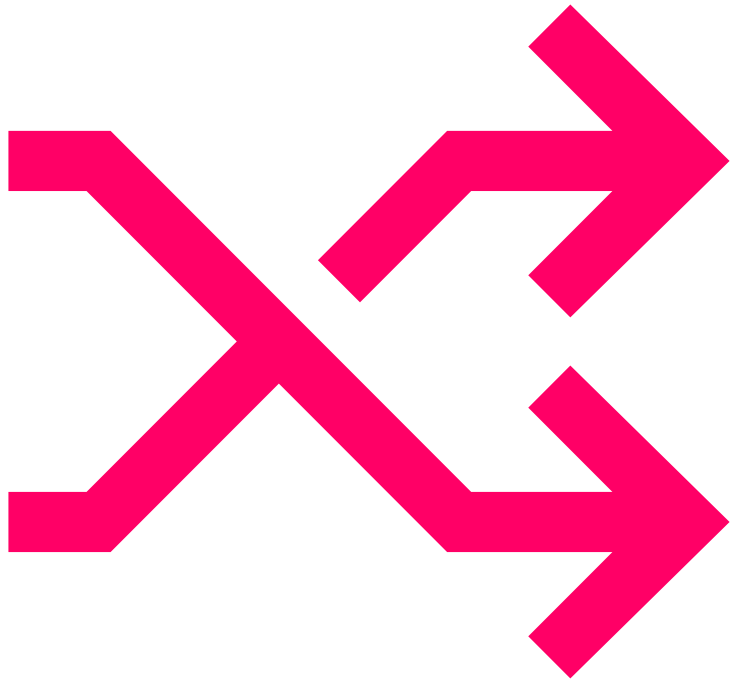


The government's current plan is that existing benefit claimants will be moved over to UC in a process called 'managed migration'.

This includes the recent announcement about Tax Credits.



If you currently claim Tax Credits you shouldn't claim UC until you've received your Migration Notice.



However, anyone who has a change of circumstances requiring a new benefit claim will be moved in a process called 'natural migration'.



What's the
difference?



‘Natural’ migration

'Natural' migration

In general, natural migration could be triggered if entitlement to your current benefit ends or you become entitled to a different or extra benefit.

It shouldn't happen when you make changes to benefits you're already claiming.

'Natural' migration

There's no going back once a claim for UC has been made.

You won't be able to claim the old benefits again, even if your UC claim is not approved.

You can find out more about which changes could trigger a natural migration online.

www.entitledto.co.uk



‘Managed’ migration

'Managed' migration

The government's current plan is that existing benefit claimants will be moved over to UC in a process called managed migration.

The DWP will send you a Migration Notice which will clearly set out the deadline you need to claim UC by (normally 3 months).

'Managed' migration

You do not need to claim UC until you have received your Migration Notice.

If you don't claim by the deadline in the Migration Notice your current benefits will stop.



‘Transitional element’

‘Transitional element’

If you claim UC after receiving a Migration Notice and you end up being entitled to less than your current benefits, you could be entitled to a top-up payment.

This is called a transitional element.

‘Transitional element’

If your circumstances change after you’ve made your claim, any transitional element you receive may stop.

Annual rent increases will also eat into the transitional element and reduce it over time.



What should I do?



Before doing anything, you should seek independent advice.

Remember...

1. Once you claim UC there's no going back
2. You'll only receive the transitional element if you claim UC after receiving a Migration Notice
3. If you migrate naturally, you won't receive the transitional element
4. If you choose to claim UC, you won't receive the transitional element
5. The rules for UC are different – it's not just the amount of money you receive that could change
6. You'll have a Claimant Commitment

7. You may have to meet certain work-related conditions and requirements
8. You could be sanctioned if you fail to do what you've agreed
9. UC is paid monthly
10. If you receive help towards your housing costs (i.e. rent) this will be paid to you direct
11. You'll have to pay your rent to SHAL out of the money you receive from UC

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