



WEST OXFORDSHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

# Get ready for **Universal Credit**

Benefits and tax credits are changing



[www.westoxon.gov.uk/universalcredit](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/universalcredit)

# What is Universal Credit

Any new claims from **November 2017** must be made through Universal Credit - a new benefit scheme for working age people who are on a low income or out of work. It replaces a number of existing benefits and tax credits:

- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Income-based Employment & Support Allowance
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit



If you already get one of these benefits or tax credits, you won't be affected before 2019 unless your circumstances change.

## What you need to do to get ready

### 1. Get a bank account

You'll need a bank, building society or credit union account your monthly payment can be paid into.



### 2. Get online

You'll need internet access to make and manage your Universal Credit claim. You will also need an email address and to verify your identity online.

### 3. Get budgeting

Your monthly Universal Credit payment includes any help towards paying your rent. You'll need to budget so you can pay your rent, bills and other living costs.



# How to apply

From November you can apply for Universal Credit online at:

[www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit](http://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit)

## You will need:

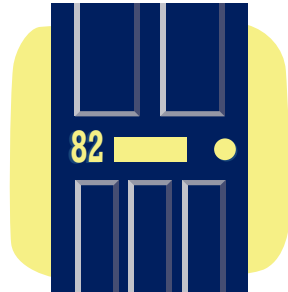


### Personal information

- Your National Insurance number
- Your email address
- Your phone number

### Housing information

- Your address
- Your landlord's address
- Your tenancy agreement (if you have one)
- Your monthly rent



### Financial information

- Your bank, building society or credit union account details
- Details of any income or benefits you get
- Details of any savings or capital you have

# We can help

Universal Credit is run by the Department of Work and Pensions. You will need to manage your claim online and may need to have regular meetings with a Jobcentre Plus adviser.



We provide support to Universal Credit claimants:

- **Help to pay your council tax:**

Council tax support is not included in Universal Credit and you will have to apply to us separately for this.

- **Help to make and manage your claim online:**

We can help you get online or find the support that works for you.

- **Help and advice if you are struggling to manage one monthly payment:**

If you would like help with budgeting or are struggling to pay your rent or bills, we can help or find other support for you.

## Contact us



01993 861030



[benefits@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@westoxon.gov.uk)

If you would like this information in large print or another format, please let us know.