



Job Start Payment

What is Job Start Payment?

It's a one off payment of £250 available to young people in Scotland who are on certain benefits, and need help with the costs of starting a new job. If the person has a child, they could get £400.

Who can get it?

A person must meet all of the criteria below to be eligible:

- are 16 to 24 years old; or are a care leaver aged 16 to 25
- live in Scotland on the day of the job offer
- they have a job offer for paid employment
- the job must average 12 hours or more per week, over a 4 week period. It doesn't need to be a permanent job
- be out of paid work and in receipt of a qualifying benefit* for 6 months or more, or if a care leaver out of paid work and in receipt of a qualifying benefit at the time of the job offer (care leavers do not need to be in receipt of a qualifying benefit for 6 months)

*Qualifying benefits are:

- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income Support
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit (UC)

How long does someone have to apply?

They have up to 3 months from getting their job offer to apply.

What evidence will be required?

A confirmation of the job offer. This can be a text message, a letter, or an email from the employer. We'll accept photocopies or screenshots of these and they can be uploaded online or provided by post.



What if they are a care leaver?

We will only request evidence of the person being a care leaver if they:

- are 25 years old when they were offered the job
- have been in receipt of a qualifying benefit for fewer than 6 months
- have been out of paid work for fewer than 6 months.

Who is a care leaver?

A person is a care leaver if they've spent time in care but stopped being looked after on, or after their 16th birthday.

This could have been either a foster, residential, secure or formal kinship care placement.

How long after applying will it take to get a payment?

We will aim to give a decision by letter within 21 working days of receiving their application form and evidence. If their application is successful, payment should follow a few days later.

How do they get the money?

We pay it directly to their chosen account.

Do they need to pay this back?

No.

What can they use the money for?

It can be spent on anything for starting work like clothing, travel or lunches.

Will this affect other benefits?

Depending on circumstances, Job Start Payment or their new job may affect other benefits. People should get independent advice.

How often can someone apply?

If someone has had a payment, they will not be able to get another one until two years have passed.

How can someone apply?

Visit mygov.scot/benefits to apply online or call freephone on 0800 182 2222 to complete the application over the phone or to request a paper application form.