



Social Security Scotland
Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

Job Start Payment

What is Job Start Payment?

It's a payment available to young people in Scotland who are on certain benefits*, and need support with the costs of starting a new job.

Who can get it?

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

- are 16 to 24 years old; or a care leaver aged 16 to 25
- live in Scotland on the day of the job offer
- be out of paid work and in receipt of a qualifying benefit for 6 months or more
- if they are a care leaver, they must be out of paid work and in receipt of a qualifying benefit on the day of the job offer
- have a job offer for paid employment
- applications must be made after a job offer, and up to three months after

*Qualifying benefits are:

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

How much is it and what can it be spent on?

It's a one off payment of £250, or £400 if the person has a child. It can be spent on anything for starting work like clothing, travel costs or lunches.

Does the job have to be full-time and permanent?

It must be for work that averages 12 hours per week or more, over a 4 week period.

What evidence will be required?

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



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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 six months
- have been out of paid work for fewer than six months

A young 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 in 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 write to the person by letter within 21 working days of receiving their application form and evidence, telling them if they'll get Job Start Payment. If their application is successful, payment should follow a few days later.

Who is paid the money?

We pay it directly to their chosen account.

Does the money need to be paid back?

No.

Will this affect other benefits?

Depending on circumstances, Job Start Payment may affect other benefits. To find out more, visit mygov.scot/benefits.

How often can they apply?

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

How can they apply?

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