



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Get ready for **Universal Credit**

Benefits and tax credits are changing



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.

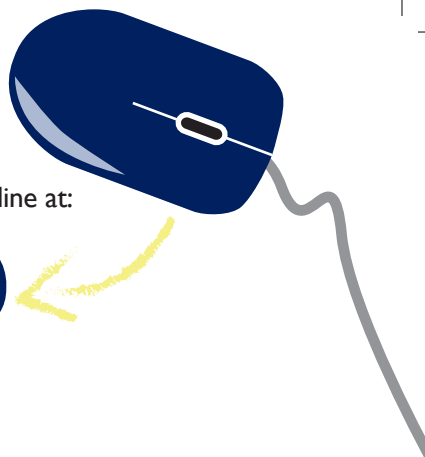


01993 861030

How to apply

From November you can apply for Universal Credit online at:

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

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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

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