
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2015 No. 2006

The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015

PART 2

Universal credit

CHAPTER 1

Entitlement and awards

Entitlement

Entitlement

- 8.**—(1) A single claimant is entitled to universal credit if the claimant meets—
- (a) the basic conditions, and
 - (b) the financial conditions for a single claimant.
- (2) Joint claimants are jointly entitled to universal credit if—
- (a) each of them meets the basic conditions, and
 - (b) they meet the financial conditions for joint claimants.

Basic conditions

- 9.**—(1) For the purposes of Article 8, a person meets the basic conditions who—
- (a) is at least 18 years old,
 - (b) has not reached the qualifying age for state pension credit,
 - (c) is in Northern Ireland,
 - (d) is not receiving education, and
 - (e) has accepted a claimant commitment.
- (2) Regulations may provide for exceptions to the requirement to meet any of the basic conditions (and, for joint claimants, may provide for an exception for one or both).
- (3) For the basic condition in paragraph (1)(a) regulations may specify a different minimum age for prescribed cases.
- (4) For the basic condition in paragraph (1)(b) the qualifying age for state pension credit is that referred to in section 1(6) of the State Pension Credit Act (Northern Ireland) 2002.
- (5) For the basic condition in paragraph (1)(c) regulations may—
- (a) specify circumstances in which a person is to be treated as being or not being in Northern Ireland;
 - (b) specify circumstances in which temporary absence from Northern Ireland is disregarded;

- (c) modify the application of this Part in relation to a person not in Northern Ireland who is by virtue of sub-paragraph (b) entitled to universal credit.
- (6) For the basic condition in paragraph (1)(d) regulations may—
 - (a) specify what “receiving education” means;
 - (b) specify circumstances in which a person is to be treated as receiving or not receiving education.
- (7) For the basic condition in paragraph (1)(e) regulations may specify circumstances in which a person is to be treated as having accepted or not accepted a claimant commitment.

Financial conditions

- 10.**—(1) For the purposes of Article 8, the financial conditions for a single claimant are that—
- (a) the claimant’s capital, or a prescribed part of it, is not greater than a prescribed amount, and
 - (b) the claimant’s income is such that, if the claimant were entitled to universal credit, the amount payable would not be less than any prescribed minimum.
- (2) For those purposes, the financial conditions for joint claimants are that—
- (a) their combined capital, or a prescribed part of it, is not greater than a prescribed amount, and
 - (b) their combined income is such that, if they were entitled to universal credit, the amount payable would not be less than any prescribed minimum.

Restrictions on entitlement

- 11.**—(1) Entitlement to universal credit does not arise—
- (a) in prescribed circumstances (even though the requirements in Article 8 are met);
 - (b) if the requirements in Article 8 are met for a period shorter than a prescribed period;
 - (c) for a prescribed period at the beginning of a period during which those requirements are met.
- (2) A period prescribed under paragraph (1)(b) or (c) may not exceed 7 days.
- (3) Regulations may provide for exceptions to paragraph (1)(b) or (c).