

Benefits Series

Benefit guidance for Ukrainians and their family member who has Down's syndrome

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Please see our website for up-to date information: www.downs-syndrome.org.uk

If you have questions or concerns, contact the DSA Helpline's Benefits Adviser:

- Monday & Thursday 10am-4pm, Tues & Weds 10am-12.30pm
- Telephone: 0333 1212 300 Option 1
- Email info@downs-syndrome.org.uk

There is comprehensive information on the Gov.uk website and the links are below. The first is an overall guide and the second includes information for those arriving on the homes for Ukraine scheme. All guests arriving under the Homes for Ukraine scheme are legally allowed to work from age 18 once in the UK and to apply for benefits.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk/week-one-guidance-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk>

Please give the DSA benefit adviser a call if you need help on the number above. The information below is a brief guide to help available and how to obtain it.

On arrival at the UK.

Apply for a Biometric Resident Permit (BRP)

When you arrive in the UK, you will need to complete a biometric resident permit. This will be an identity document and help with your right to study and accessing public and benefit services.

<https://apply.visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/product/ukraine-scheme-brp>

Interim Payment & emergency housing if needed

You are entitled receive £200 for each person to help with food and necessities until the benefit money is paid. You need to contact your local council about this. You can find your council by putting the postcode in on the link below

<https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

This money does not have to be paid back.

If for any reason you are unable to stay with your sponsor on arrival, your council will arrange emergency accommodation. You should ask at the welcome point at your entry location on arrival.

Open a bank account

Visit or call a bank or building society to open an account. You will need an email address and a valid telephone number together with your identification documents.

Banks and building societies have been advised by the government to consider alternative forms of identification if you do not have all the forms usually needed.

Claim Benefits

Universal Credit (UC) - For the whole family

- Call 0800 328 5644 13 if you do not want to apply online.
- You need your passport and bank card for identification
- You need your bank details, email address and access to a telephone.
- Can be paid to those in work and out of work
- Means tested.
- Total savings of between £6,000 and £15,999 will affect the amount of Universal credit that you receive.
- If you have savings over £16,000, you will not be entitled until these are below this amount.
- Apply online at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit>

You can apply for a repayable advance if you are unable to wait until the benefit starts (it usually takes around 6 weeks)

Pension credit – For those age 66+

For those who are over age 66. If claiming as a couple, both would have to be aged 66 or over, otherwise you need to claim Universal Credit.

Call 0800 99 1234 to claim

Sure Start Maternity Grant

If you are in receipt of means tested benefit such as Universal credit, and you have no other children under 16, you can claim for the £500 grant from 11 weeks before baby's due date, up to 6 months of age.

You can apply <https://www.gov.uk/sure-start-maternity-grant>

In Scotland you can apply for a Pregnancy and Baby Payment <https://www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods/how-to-apply>

For people from Northern Ireland, the link is <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/publications/sure-start-maternity-grant-form-sf100>

If you have refugee or humanitarian protection, or, you have left Ukraine and were resident before 1 Jan 2022 (having to leave because of the Russian invasion on 24 Feb 2022) or you left Afghanistan (because of the collapse of the Afghan government on 15 August 2021), you can get a grant if you have a child or children from before arriving in the UK.

Child Benefit - for qualifying children up to age 20

- Administered by HMRC
- Paid in full if the highest earning parent earns less than £50,000.

Call Child Benefit Helpline and ask for a CH2 form - 0300 200 3100. You can also apply online through the government website <https://www.gov.uk/child-benefit/how-to-claim>

Child Benefit is currently £24 for your first child and £15.90 for all other children (2023/4)

Disability Living Allowance DLA (For qualifying children under 16)

- Administered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).
- Not means tested (savings and income don't affect it)
- It consists of 2 parts, the *care component* and the *mobility component*.
- DLA care component can be awarded from 3 months of age
- The mobility component can be awarded from 3 years of age.

To qualify for DLA at 3 months, a baby must have *current* needs, that are over and above those normally needed at this age. Babies with extra medical needs may qualify at this earlier time, examples include tube feeding your baby or administering regular prescribed medication, maybe for their heart or kidneys.

If your baby has no medical issues, they will probably qualify at a later time when they start to show a delay in development. Maybe speech therapy and physiotherapy activities are needed for their development. This need varies with each child. If you are unsure, please call us.

The care component has 3 rates:

- Highest rate (for extra day **and** night needs) £101.75 weekly
- Middle rate (for extra day **or** night needs). £68.10 weekly
- The lowest rate is for someone who needs care for around an hour a day whether for a single period or lots of brief single periods. £26.90 (all 2023/4)

If you are awarded DLA for your child, you will be entitled to extra Universal Credit. You will need to let UC know about the award for them to pay this extra amount.

Phone 0800 121 4600 for a claim pack or you can download one from www.gov.uk.

Personal Independence Payment PIP (For qualifying children and adults 16+)

PIP is for 16 – 65-year-olds. If you get DLA, when your child approaches 16, you will receive a letter inviting you to claim PIP. You will need to request a PIP form at this time, remaining on DLA isn't an option and your award will run out.

If you claim carers allowance, this will carry on if you still satisfy the caring criteria.

PIP is not means tested so savings do not affect it.

You can call 0800 121 4433 for a form

If you are awarded PIP, you will be entitled to extra Universal Credit. You will need to let UC know about the award for them to pay this extra amount.

Attendance Allowance AA (For adults over 65)

AA can be paid to qualifying adults over the age of 65. It is paid to people who are physically or mentally disabled and who need help with personal care or supervision to keep safe.

Call 0800 7310122 for a form

If you are awarded AA, you will be entitled to extra Universal or pension Credit. You will need to let them know about the award for them to pay this extra amount.

Carers Allowance (if caring for a person receiving DLA, AA or PIP)

You can claim if you are looking after someone claiming DLA middle or highest rate care component, PIP care component or Attendance Allowance.

It is means tested, but only for the carer of the child.

If you decide to work part time, you can earn up to £139 per week (after tax, national insurance contributions and **half** of any pension payment). Your partner's income will not affect the carers allowance.

If you claim Universal credit, you will receive a carers premium or amount within this benefit. The carer amount in Universal Credit has no earning restrictions.

To find out more and make a claim, contact Carers Allowance Unit on 0800 731 0297

- Carers Allowance is £76.75 weekly,
- carers amount under Universal credit is £185.86 monthly

Register with a Doctors surgery

UK

<https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/gps/how-to-register-with-a-gp-surgery/>

Scotland

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/nhs-services/doctors/registering-with-a-gp-practice>

Education

Contact your local council for information about school registration

<https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

Contact us

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