



## Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) - Final Year Students

This section only applies to final year students who are not eligible to claim benefits throughout their course.

### When Should I Claim?

You should claim benefit from the first working day after your term officially ends. You should claim promptly as it is difficult to get benefit backdated. Most Job Centre Plus offices are inundated with new student claims in June/July, so it will be beneficial if you contact the Job Centre a week before the end of term to book your appointment for an interview to sign on.

### What If I Intend To Start Another Course In September?

If you have completed your present course and will be enrolling onto another course in September 2011 you can still claim benefit in the period between courses. Graduates who will be starting a postgraduate course such as the PGCE can claim benefits in the period between the courses.

### What If I Will Be Starting A Permanent Job Soon?

You can claim JSA until you start your job. You will need to confirm that you are available for work in this intervening period - it does not matter if you have little chance of obtaining short-term work.

### Which Benefits Can I Claim?

You may qualify for:

- Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)
- Local Housing Allowance (LHA)
- Council Tax Benefit (CTB)

JSA is a benefit for people who are required to sign on as available for full time work. If you are not available for work because you have children (lone parent), are sick, a carer or are elderly get advice on claiming Income Support instead.

### To Qualify for Income-Based JSA, You Must:

- Be available and actively seeking full time work
- Not have more than £8000 savings
- Be 'habitually resident' in the UK

If you have a part-time job then your earnings will be taken into account. You will not qualify for JSA if you work for more than 16 hours a week (but may qualify for Tax Credits in certain circumstances - seek advice).

If you are living with somebody as a couple then you will be assessed on your joint income. You will not qualify for JSA if either of you work for more than 24 hours a week.

Couples under 25 who do not have children must both register as available for work.

## **How to Claim JSA**

Call in or telephone your local Job Centre Plus office (the one in the area where you are looking for work). Take your NI number with you. You will be given a claim pack for JSA and Housing and Council Tax Benefit. At the interview the employment officer will agree your 'Jobseekers Agreement' with you.

How much will I get?

- Age 18-24 £53.45
- Age 25 & over £67.50
- Lone parent over 18 £67.50
- Couples aged over 18 £105.95