

Information Briefing Note

Universal Credit: Work-related requirements

	No work-related requirements	Work-focused interview requirement	Work preparation requirement	All work-related requirements
Parent or guardian	Lead carer of child under 1. Adopted a child within the last 12 months. Pregnant within 11 weeks before due date, or 15 weeks since due date.	Lead carer of child aged 1. Foster parent of a child or qualifying young person with care needs. Started kinship care within the last 12 months.	Lead carer of child aged 2.	Responsible carers of child aged under 13 can limit expected hours of work to school hours and are allowed more time to take up work or attend an interview.
Carer	Regular and substantial caring responsibilities (35 hrs per week) for a severely disabled person.			Relevant carers can limit expected hours of work and are allowed more time to take up work or attend an interview.
Illness or disability	Limited Capability for Work-Related Activity (LCWRA).		Limited Capability for Work (LCW).	Person with physical or mental impairment can limit expected hours of work and work search activity.
Working	Earnings above individual earnings threshold (NMW x expected hours of work). Self-employed and subject to Minimum Income Floor.			Requirements must be legally permissible. Claimants in work allowed more time to take up work or attend an interview. No work search or availability requirement if earnings exceed Administrative Earnings Threshold (AET).

Other	Reached the qualifying age for Pension Credit. Student with student income taken into account. Appointee in place.			Expected hours of work can be adjusted to reflect 'temporary circumstances'. Homeless claimants can limit work search activity. Claimants with 'complex needs' can get discretionary easement.
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In addition, whilst the following claimants do fall into the 'all work-related requirements group' they cannot have work search or availability requirements imposed on them for a specified period of time:

- has been a victim of domestic violence in the last 6 months;
- relevant or responsible carer for a child dealing with bereavement or trauma which occurred within the previous 24 months, for a period of 1 month in any of the four periods of 6 months following the bereavement or trauma;
- attending a court or tribunal as a party to any proceedings or as a witness;
- is a prisoner;
- temporarily absent from Northern Ireland for medical treatment, or that of their child, for a period not exceeding 6 months;
- within 6 months of the death of their partner or child;
- receiving and participating in alcohol or drug dependency treatment for a period of up to 6 months;
- under protection due to their involvement in investigations or proceedings for a period of up to 3 months;
- engaged in a public duty approved by the Department (e.g. volunteer firefighter);
- unfit for work, for up to 14 days, on no more than 2 occasions in a 12-month period.

For more detailed information, see ADM Chapters [J2](#) and [J3](#) and the Universal Credit (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2016, [Part 8 Chapter 1](#).