



## Universal Credit

A useful guide to help you with the process from understanding it to the actual application.

CLC Finance are here to help you so speak to your agent or

call the office on 0113 2630295

The Government have put together a guide about Universal Credit which you can find at [www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/universal-credit](http://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/universal-credit)

This is a brief summary of what it actually means and how you can get help when/if it applies to you.

Introduction dates depend on where you live and you will be given a date when you will receive the Universal Credit payment. It is paid monthly so please tell your agent when this date is so we can note it for our records.

Universal Credit will replace all of the following: child tax credit, housing benefit, income support, job seekers allowance, income related employment and support allowance and working tax credit.

To work out how much you can get go to

[www.gov.uk/universal-credit/how-your-earnings-affect-your-payments](http://www.gov.uk/universal-credit/how-your-earnings-affect-your-payments)

You have to apply for Universal Credit online and then contact your local Job Centre Plus to make an appointment to meet a Work Coach. If you do not attend an appointment you will not receive a payment.

The helpline is 0800 328 5644, and you can apply at

[www.universal-credit.service.gov.uk/postcode-checker](http://www.universal-credit.service.gov.uk/postcode-checker)

It usually takes 5 weeks to receive your first payment which may cause you problems but you can claim an advance. This is very important, please read [www.gov.uk/universal-credit/get-an-advance-first-payment](http://www.gov.uk/universal-credit/get-an-advance-first-payment)

Any advance you receive will be taken off your monthly Universal Credit over the following 12 months. Speak to your Work Coach or call 0800 328 9344.

Universal Credit will have an impact on everyone claiming benefits and the above is a very brief summary of it. If you have any doubt then ring the helpline.

To help you plan your finances look at the useful budget tools at

[www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk](http://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk)



## **Reasons to Have Good Credit**

A good credit score is important for everyone. Loans are now a necessary part of life for most of us.

Credit scores don't usually get the attention they deserve, but you don't realise how important they are until it's too late.

Your credit information can be a major factor in whether you can buy or rent the house or apartment that you *really* want.

Lenders, Landlords and Insurers will use your credit score to see if you are a reliable and responsible person and therefore a good risk.

Utility companies will always look at your credit score. A good credit score always saves you money on your gas and electricity bills, not to mention on contracts for your shiny new mobile phone.

Even some jobs can only be applied for if you have a good credit score.

By building a solid credit history and maintaining a good credit score can have a dramatic impact on your quality of life now, and in the future.

It's all about how you use credit that lets you keep a good score so always remember..... 'Never get complacent and pay your agent!' or let us know about any problems you are having as soon as possible then we may be able to mark your credit file as arrangement rather than a missed repayment which would have a negative effect