



JOB SEEKERS ALLOWANCE

Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) is a benefit for people who are unemployed but capable of and **actively seeking work**.

If you claim you will also have to sign a Jobseeker's Agreement or Claimant Commitment with the Jobcentre Plus office.

You will have to sign on at the Jobcentre Plus office at least every two weeks so that they can check whether you are meeting the conditions set out in your agreement, and see if you need any extra help to find work. **If you fail to do this without good reason you will be sanctioned and lose your JSA.**

You should keep a record of all the steps you have taken to find work, as well as copies of advertisements you reply to and letters you have sent and received about jobs.

When you first claim JSA, you will have to attend an interview about why you are unemployed and what sort of job you are seeking.

You won't normally get any money for the first 7 days of your claim ('waiting days') unless you have already completed waiting days as part of an earlier claim which can be linked to your current claim.

Once you have been unemployed for a few months, you will probably have to take part in a compulsory employment scheme such as the Work Programme, which can involve work experience or training.

There are two types of JSAs:

Contribution-based-this will depend on the amount of national insurance contributions you have paid in the last couple of years...Contribution-based JSA is paid for a maximum of 182 days (approximately six months). After that, you may get **income-based JSA**, depending on your income and savings.

Income-based - You may get income-based JSA if you **don't have** enough national insurance contributions to get contribution-based JSA. You must not be working more than 16 hrs a week or your partner more than 24 hr a week. If you have savings over £6000 this will affect how much JSA you get.

Who can get JSA

You can usually only claim JSA if you are aged 18 or over and under state pension age and not in full time education. You must have also been living in the UK for at least 3 months.

How to claim JSA: online at www.gov.uk or by phone: 0800 055 6688