



This resource was co-created by attendees of the 'Fair Pay and Lived Experience' events in April/May 2023 organised by Arts & Homelessness International and the Arts and Social Outcomes Network. It is a response to the fact that there is often confusion about rules and regulations when it comes to paying members of our communities

Universal Credit

All the previous benefits have been rolled into one.
The amount is £292.11 per month (under 25); £368.74 (over 25)
You can receive an extra £390.06 (if you have a disability or health condition)
Source: www.gov.uk/universal-credit

Personal Independence Allowance (PIP)

If you have a long term physical or mental health condition or disability you can receive PIP whether you're working or not

Sanctions

Benefits sanctions occur if you do not fulfil the requirements of your benefits e.g. missing appointments. You should always appeal sanctions and 99% of appeals are successful

See the Central England Law Centre for more info
<https://www.centralenglandlc.org.uk/contact-us>

Income, savings, vouchers and benefits

For every £1 you earn, your benefit payment goes down by 55p
Work Allowance – if you look after a child or have a disability or health condition, you can earn £379 a month without it reducing your benefits (if you don't have Housing Benefit, this can go up to £631)

Income from voluntary or charity sources

Any income you receive from voluntary sources – such as from friends and family or from charities – is disregarded completely when calculating benefits. A voluntary payment is a payment that has a benevolent purpose and is given without anything being given in return

Source: <https://www.entitledto.co.uk/help/benefits-charity>



Vouchers and alternative payments

You can receive a voucher or be bought equipment, art materials etc without it affecting your benefits if it is a gift and not as an alternative to a payment. If you receive a voucher or any other benefit instead of a payment or as an alternative to a payment, this needs to be declared and your benefits could be reduced

Savings

You can't claim UC if you have more than £16,000 in savings and UC reduces if you have more than £6,000

Volunteering

There is no limit on the amount of volunteering you can do as long as it doesn't look like paid work or as long you are not getting a benefit in kind. Claiming expenses is fine. <https://timebanking.org/> have done some brilliant work in making sure volunteers aren't penalised for not looking for work

Links and other resources that might help

Entitled To – benefits advice <https://www.entitledto.co.uk/>

Citizen's Advice Bureau <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

Turn to Us – helping people with financial security <https://www.turn2us.org.uk/>

Lived Experience Fair Remuneration campaign –

<https://www.basw.co.uk/social-workers-union/lived-experience-fair-remuneration>

Government Universal Credit info – <https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit>

