

YOUTH JOBS GRANT

A guide for employers



CONTENTS

- What is the Youth Jobs Grant?
- Why should your business take part?
- Who does it support?
- Things you need to know
- How the scheme works
- How this fits with the Youth Guarantee, Jobs Guarantee and other schemes
- Still have questions?



WHAT IS THE YOUTH JOBS GRANT?

The Youth Jobs Grant launched on **30 June 2026** across Great Britain as part of the **Youth Guarantee**. It helps employers discover untapped talent by hiring a young person that needs a foothold in the labour market and helps to tackle high levels of youth unemployment and inactivity.

Employers receive a £3,000 Youth Jobs Grant when they recruit an eligible young person to a job registered with the scheme, if they are:

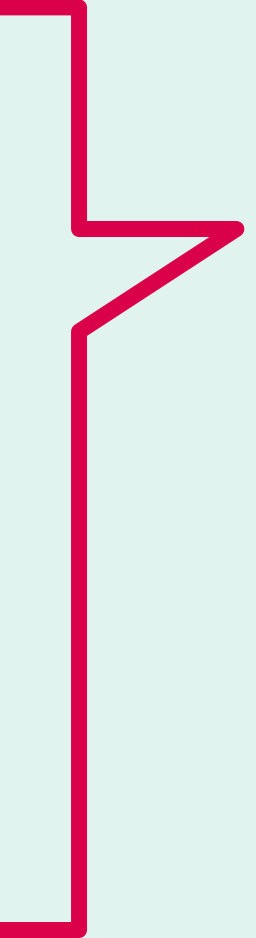
- aged 18–24
- claiming Universal Credit and unemployed for at least six months
- recruited into a role of at least 25 hours per week at National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage for four months

The grant helps cover recruitment and training costs to create meaningful job opportunities for young people. The scheme aims to support up to 60,000 opportunities over three years (around 20,000 per year).



For wider recruitment support visit [**business.gov.uk/recruit**](https://business.gov.uk/recruit) and complete our online enquiry form or call Employer Services today on **0800 169 0178** and a local Recruitment Consultant will call you back to discuss how we can support you.

Alternatively, if you are ready to apply you can view the grant application form at [**Youth Jobs Grant - Find A Grant**](#) and full terms and conditions are available at [**Youth Jobs Grant - Guidance**](#).



WHY SHOULD YOUR BUSINESS TAKE PART?

Many young people struggle to find work because they lack experience, confidence or recent work history. This scheme **helps you access motivated candidates** from your local labour market, who might otherwise be overlooked — while receiving financial support to do so.

You'll receive:

- **£3,000 per eligible hire job***
(issued across a split payment of two installments)
- job matching support via Jobcentre Plus and their local recruitment consultant teams. You will also have the opportunity to meet potential candidates before recruiting them.

In return, you'll need to:

- offer a genuine paid job you would otherwise recruit for
- complete a straightforward application that is designed to be completed in around 20 minutes
- confirm your organisation meets requirements to ensure roles are safe, fair and good quality (usually via a simple declaration)
- provide a named point of contact and keep DWP informed of anything affecting the role or grant application.

* (if you keep the young person on for a minimum of 4 months)

WHO DOES IT SUPPORT?

Young people are eligible if they are aged 18–24, have been unemployed for at least 6 months and are claiming Universal Credit. Jobcentre Plus work coaches will match them to your vacancies, improving the likelihood of finding suitable candidates. The final decision on who to recruit will rest with you as the employer to ensure you find the best fit for your business.

Most participants will be work ready and actively looking for work, though some may need additional support to start and stay in employment. A supportive employer, on-the-job training and access to workplace support will give young people the best chance to thrive.

Hiring a young person through this scheme can bring fresh perspectives, diversity and loyalty to your organisation.



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

The scheme is run centrally by **DWP**, with a dedicated team supporting employers through registration, administration and payments, while **ensuring roles are safe, suitable and protect public money.**

To be eligible, employers (including sole traders) must:

- operate in Great Britain
- have traded for at least 6 months
- be registered with HMRC (UTR and PAYE)
- not be part of central government (local authorities and wider public sector organisations are eligible)

DWP will carry out checks to protect public money. Employers breaching the terms may be removed from the scheme and payments recovered.

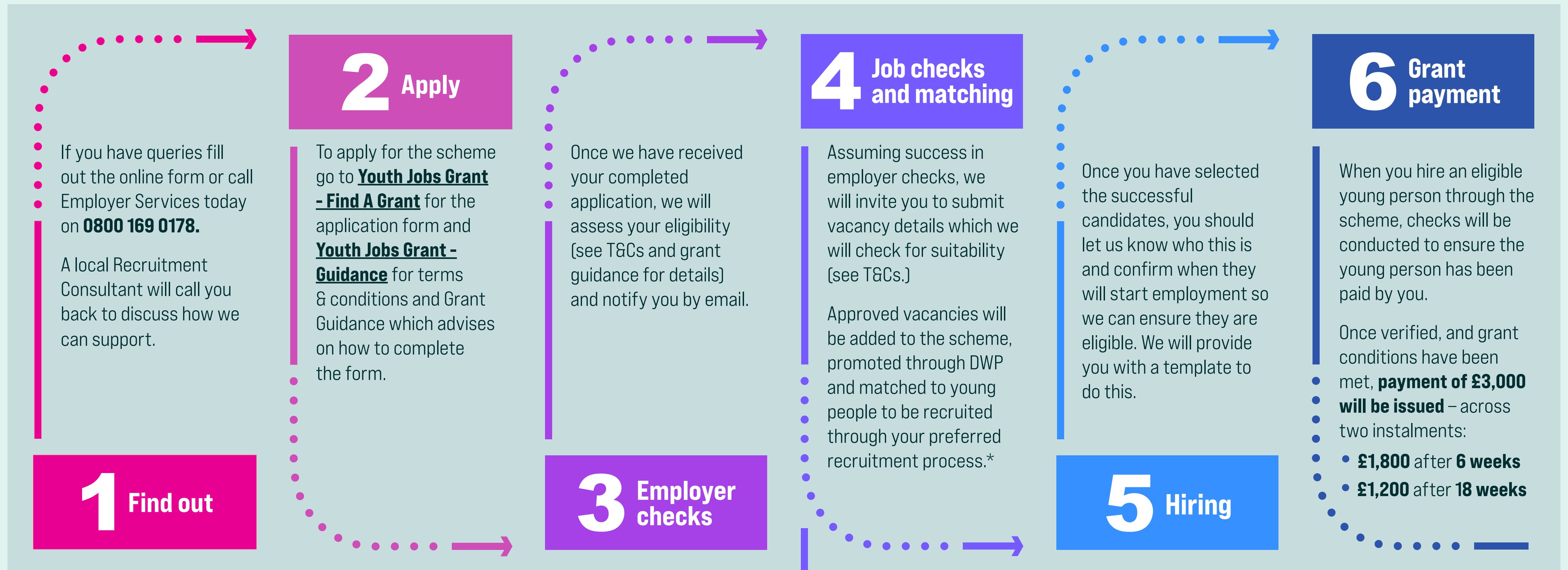
Jobs must:

- be genuine paid roles (at least 25 hours per week for 4 months or more)
- pay at least the National Minimum or Living Wage
- be safe, lawful and comparable to other jobs
- not replace existing staff or roles

See full details in the Grant Guidance and Terms & Conditions **Youth Jobs Grant - Guidance.**



HOW THE SCHEME WORKS



For full details of the grant process see the Grant Guidance and Terms & Conditions **Youth Jobs Grant - Guidance** and the Grant Application **Youth Jobs Grant - Find A Grant**.

* Further vacancies would return to this point without a new application being required.

HOW THIS FITS WITH THE YOUTH GUARANTEE, JOBS GUARANTEE and other schemes

The Youth Jobs Grant is part of the **Government's Youth Guarantee**, which also includes the Jobs Guarantee for young people out of work or education for over 18 months.

Young people cannot take part in the Jobs Guarantee and Youth Jobs Grant at the same time. Find out more at **Build Your Future Workforce.**

The Youth Jobs Grant can also be combined with funding for eligible apprenticeships, including employer hiring payments. Employers can use the grant to fill apprenticeship roles **Get emails about taking on your first apprentice.**

If you wish to take on a young person as part of a Work Experience **(WEX)** or Sector-Based Work Academy Placement **(SWAPs)**, and they meet eligibility criteria for the Youth Jobs Grant (including earning criteria) this may be useful way to assess whether a young person is the right fit for your business before applying for the Youth Jobs Grant.



STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Why are we introducing the Youth Jobs Grant?

Young people deserve a system that enables them to thrive through opportunities to earn and learn and change their lives for the better. Many young people struggle to secure work because they lack experience, confidence and a recent work history. Targeted financial support helps employers take on candidates who may otherwise miss out. This funding will help employers

with the upfront costs of recruitment and training, giving more young people the chance to secure their first meaningful job, and giving employers the opportunity to benefit from the fresh perspective that young people can bring to the workplace.

Is the grant open to all employers?

Yes, employers of any size can apply, including sole traders, if they

operate in Great Britain and are registered with HMRC. Employers in the scheme must not be part of a central government department, including government departments, executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies. Jobs with Local Authorities and other non-central public sector organisations are eligible.

Eligibility and suitability requirements apply as above.

How is the grant paid?

The £3,000 grant is paid in two instalments once DWP has verified employment and earnings through HMRC. The first payment is £1,800 (after 6 weeks) and the second payment is £1,200 (after 18 weeks), where grant conditions are met.

Can a job be more than 25 hours per week?

Yes, but the grant amount remains £3,000 regardless of hours worked or pay

above the minimum wage. Any additional costs are met by the employer.

Does the grant fund regular jobs?

Yes. Young people hired through the scheme should be treated like any other employee.



STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Is there a limit on how many young people I can take on?

As part of the scheme's due diligence checks to guard against fraud and error, DWP may need to consider limiting the number of jobs you register with the scheme in proportion to the size of the employer. See the grant guidance for specific details.

How will you stop the scheme being misused?

We take fraud very seriously and wherever we believe that an employer has acted

in a way that is contrary to the scheme's aims or is misusing public money, we will take steps to address this, including recovery of payments we believe may have been obtained through fraud or employers acting in bad faith.

Why is there a minimum period of employment?

The aim of this scheme is to provide genuine, lasting and high-quality employment opportunities, to give young people a foothold in the

labour market. A period of at least 4 months employment will give young people meaningful real-world experience of working. It will also give employers the chance to get to know candidates and help unlock their potential, improving the likelihood of them being retained or of finding work in future.

