

Volunteering and Job Seekers/Universal Credit

There is no cap on voluntary hours

However JSA and Universal Credit are conditional and require a certain number of 'work related activity' hours (e.g. researching a company, volunteering, training, applying for jobs, CV writing) these activities are agreed in a meeting with your job coach and make the 'Claimant Commitment'

Volunteering can be counted within these hours if:

- The job coach agrees it is linked to gaining relevant skills/experience
- It is linked to your Primary Aims/Goal (which can easily be changed)



If it is not linked or agreed as part of these hours it must be in addition to these hours.

Job Seekers Allowance

37hrs of work related activity unless health restrictions or caring responsibilities)

We advise you complete a Vol1 form with your job coach **before** starting to volunteer.

Universal Credit

35hrs of work related activity unless health restrictions or caring responsibilities)

We advise you complete a UC214 form with your job coach **before** starting to volunteer.

We have copies of these forms and can help you fill it in during your induction.

If you are happy to share:

- Your work coach name and contact details
- Your claimant commitment (if you have one)
- Your primary goal (area of work you are aiming for)

We will do our best to help you show how volunteering with us gains you skills and experience that count towards your 'work related activity'.

With your permission we can call your job coach and speak to them directly about the skills and experience you will gain through volunteering and make sure the Vol 1 form is completed.

We will never pass on any information without your consent.

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You are within your rights to take an 'advocate' with you to any meetings or assessments to support you.

They can take notes during the meeting and help you to explain things or answer questions.



Sanctions often occur when people agree to a claimant commitment that is un-achievable.

Don't be afraid to discuss things in the agreement if they seem unrealistic.

- Make sure they are aware if you do not have access to a computer or the internet at home.
- Only agree if you agree

