**Student Case Study: Universal Credit**

**Padme is a full-time student, over 25 years of age. She is married and has two children.   
Her husband works 35 hours per week for £1,572 per month (salary approx £22,000 per year). They live in a private rented house in Sunderland. This is how their Universal Credit will be calculated.**

*Maximum Universal Credit (10 months / ‘Assessment Periods’: Sept to June) =*

Standard Allowance (couple) = £525.72 +  
Child Element 1 = £290.00 +  
Child Element 2 = £244.58 +  
Rent = £434.52  
Total = **£1,494.82 is the maximum Padme could receive***The maximum Universal Credit amount is reduced by any income Padme and her husband receive. This includes her husband’s earnings and her Maintenance Loan, which are taken into account as follows.*

Income from partner’s earnings:   
£1572 minus Work Allowance of £344 = £1,228  
£1228 x 55% ‘earnings taper’ = **£675.40 income from wages**

Maintenance Loan = £9,706  
Divided by 10 Assessment Periods (Sept to June) = £970.60 per month  
Minus £110 per month Student Loan Disregard = **£860.60 Student Loan Income**

**TOTAL INCOME FOR U.C. THEREFORE IS £675.40 + £860.60 = £1,536.00**

*The amount of Universal Credit payable is the maximum Universal Credit amount minus the Income amount.*  
Therefore £1,494.82 - £1,536.00 = **ZERO Universal Credit (Sept to June)**

Padme and her husband would not receive any Universal Credit during term-time, September to June. They would have to pay their full rent during this time.

They can re-apply for Universal Credit over the Summer months of July and August, when Padme’s Maintenance Loan is not taken into account. The calculation would then be £1,494.82 minus £675.40 so they would receive £819.42 during those two months.

**This information is intended as a guide only. It is not your official DWP entitlement letter. You will need to make a claim for Universal Credit in order to receive an official letter of entitlement from DWP and for them to make payments.**