Unite Pension Scheme – Pension modeller
User guide

The pension modeller is for active members of the Unite Pension Scheme (the Scheme). If you are a deferred member of the Scheme, you can contact the Scheme administrators to obtain an estimate of your pension, using the [Contact Us](#) page on the Scheme website.

> All figures produced by the modeller are approximate and are for illustrative purposes only and do not form a guarantee. Your benefits which are paid will be calculated by our administration team in accordance with the Scheme rules using your up to date salary and service information.

Why should I use the modeller?

You can use the modeller to give you an idea of the benefits you might receive from the Scheme when you retire.

All you need to use the modeller is your latest Annual Benefit Statement. The Scheme administrators send you a benefit statement each year, usually around November.

Your Annual Benefit Statement shows you:

- the pension you have built up so far, to 5 April of that year; and
- the pension you will have built up if you stay an active member of the Scheme up to your Scheme Normal Pension Age i.e. your 63rd birthday.

You can use the modeller to recreate your benefit statement. You can then change the following details, and see how this might affect your benefits:

- Pensionable Salary;
- the rate at which pension builds up in future, or "accrual rate"; and
- Retirement Date.

The modeller calculates an illustration of your benefits assuming you remain in pensionable service until, and then retire from, the Retirement Date that you input. The modeller takes into account the Union's enhanced Normal Pension Age for active members, which is broadly in line with State Pension Age less five years.

How do I use the modeller?

There are only five inputs needed to use the modeller, to make it as easy to use as possible.

Modeller ID

This is used to identify you. If you do not know your Modeller ID, please Contact Us.

Date of birth

Your date of birth.

Pensionable Salary

This is the salary figure used to calculate your pension and basic lump sum. It does not include any temporary responsibility allowance, overtime or bonus, but does include any London weighting. If you are currently working part-time, please input your current full-time equivalent salary into the modeller.

If you earn below the 'Salary Limit' – £71,287 for the year 2023 – your Pensionable Salary is equal to your basic salary over the 12 months up to your Retirement Date, including any London weighting.

If you earn the same or more than this limit, your Pensionable Salary is equal to your basic salary over the last 12 months, including any London weighting, apart from any increases to your Pensionable Salary following a promotion on or after 1 January 2013 will be recognised incrementally over a 10-year period.

Accrual Rate

This is the rate at which you build up pension, for each year and complete month of Scheme Service. There are two choices in the Scheme: 1/60th or 1/70th of your Pensionable Salary.

You can find your current accrual rate on your Annual Benefit Statement. If your accrual rate is 1/60th, you contribute between 11% and 12.3% of your Salary to the Scheme (depending on your Union salary grade). If your accrual rate is 1/70th, then you contribute between 8% and 9.3% of your Salary.

The modeller allows you to see what the impact would be of changing your accrual rate for pension building up from 6 April of that year.

If you want to actually switch accrual rates, then you are allowed to do this once a year, effective from 6 April, by letting the Union payroll department know by 1 March.

Retirement Date

This is the date that the illustrated pension would be payable from.

Your Annual Benefit Statement shows you the benefits at your Scheme Normal Pension Age, which is your 63rd birthday. The modeller shows you an illustration of your benefits at the date you input. If the Retirement Date you input is before your 55th birthday or after your 75th birthday, then the figures shown will be calculated at your 55th birthday or your 75th birthday respectively.

Modeller output

The results of the modeller are in the same layout as your Annual Benefit Statement.

	BUILT UP SO FAR TO 5 APRIL 2023	AT RETIREMENT DATE
BASIC PENSION	£3,520 per annum	£8,150 per annum
+ BASIC CASH SUM	£3,730 lump sum	£8,650 lump sum
	OR	
REDUCED PENSION	£2,690 per annum	£6,220 per annum
+ MAX CASH SUM	£17,930	£41,520

* If your chosen retirement date is before your 55th birthday or after your 75th birthday, then the figures shown will be calculated at your 55th birthday or your 75th birthday respectively.

Benefits payable on death

	BEFORE RETIREMENT	AFTER RETIREMENT
LUMP SUM PAYABLE UPON DEATH	£96,000	A lump sum is only payable if you die within five years of retirement and is subject to the discretion of the Trustee. The amount payable would be: ○ 30% of your pension built up from 1 January 2023, plus ○ 50% of your pension built up before 1 January 2023 before any reduction for tax-free cash is taken into account.
PARTNER'S PENSION PAYABLE UPON DEATH	£4,800	

If you want to see other results, you can simply change the inputs and press the recalculate button.

If you have any questions or problems, please use the Contact Us page on the Scheme website.