

Jobcentre Plus Travel Discount Card Guidance

1. On behalf of the rail network, the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) entered into a new agreement with Jobcentre Plus to replace the New Deal Reduced Rail Fare Scheme. This will now be called the Jobcentre Plus Travel Discount Card, and will continue the provision of reduced rail fares in England, Wales and Scotland.

2. Non JSA Claimants will have access to the card if they are actively engaged with a personal adviser in getting back to employment. This agreement is now open-ended and will continue until either ATOC or Jobcentre Plus wish to end it. The agreement came into effect from 1/11/2011 in England and Wales and from 01/04/2012 in Scotland. From 29/10/12 the eligibility for JSA claimants in England & Wales is from 13 weeks.

3. The agreement has the following eligibility criteria:

In England and Wales & Scotland:

- Universal Credit claimants in the All Work Related Requirements group from 13 weeks to point of Work Programme referral
- Universal Credit claimants not in the All Work Related Requirements group who are actively engaged with a Work Services Coach in returning to employment
- JSA Claimants from 13 weeks to point of Work Programme referral
- IB/ESA/IS & UC claimants who are actively engaged with an adviser in returning to employment

In Scotland the Jobcentre Plus Travel Discount Card can be issued to claimants:

- Whilst on the Work Programme 2 awards of the card (Max 3 months each) within the 2 year participation period.
- Who are Work Choice participants on Stage one in Scotland are entitled to one Jobcentre Plus Travel Discount Card valid for three months.

Please see further information about introduction in Scotland.

Work Programme participants in England and Wales

4. Work Programme participants in England & Wales are not eligible for the card. Where customers are to be deferred from referral to the Work Programme final cards can be issued at the deferral point for up to three months.

Work Programme completers

5. The Jobcentre Plus Travel Discount Card cannot be issued to Work Programme completers. Negotiations with the Association of Train Operating Companies have concluded and their decision is to not allow the card to be issued to Work Programme completers.

6. Transport for London will also continue to offer reduced fares for Jobcentre Plus Travel Discount Card holders on London Underground and Transport for London buses. There are also other discount schemes in London operated via the Mayor for London.