**Important information about job-seeker benefit and job-seeker aid in Hungary**

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**1. Jobseeker**

A job-seeker is a person who is registered as a job-seeker with the national employment service, i.e. who meets the necessary legal and other conditions enabling him/her to work (e.g. s/he does not need a work permit); citizens of the EU/EEA are regarded as job-seekers even if they do require a permit. A job-seeker cannot be a student in full-time education or a person entitled to an old-age pension, rehabilitation benefit, benefits prior to retirement age or benefits for persons with changed working capacity, and may not receive income from other activities, except for occasional work. A job-seeker has to co-operate with the national employment service.

Concerning the status of a job-seeker gainful activity shall mean all types of work for which remuneration is received; furthermore, persons who have an entrepreneur's license or who participate in a business association's activities either in person or by performing work within the framework of auxiliary services as well as the executive officers of a company and the persons indicated in the articles of association as having the right/obligation to participate/perform work shall also be construed as being engaged in gainful activities.

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| **2. Jobseeker's allowance** |
| **Who is entitled to receive jobseeker's allowance?**    *A jobseeker's allowance may be granted to a person*   * with an eligibility period of at least 360 days within three years preceding the date of becoming a jobseeker, * who is looking for work**, and** * who is not engaged in any gainful activities, i.e. is neither employed nor * self-employed, and * would like to find work, but whose individual efforts to find work have been so far unsuccessful, and * to whom the relevant employment office fails to offer an appropriate job.   Incapacitated jobseekers or persons with partially restricted legal capacity concerning issues of employment shall participate in the procedure via their legal representatives.  It is the legal representative who shall act on behalf of incapacitated persons, and therefore, all the documents regarding the allowance shall be signed by the incapacitated claimant's legal representative instead of the claimant. As for the issues regarding persons with partially restricted legal capacity, the written consent of the legal representative is required. Accordingly, all the documents in the procedure concerning the allowance shall bear the legal representative's signature of consent.  *Minors under the age of fourteen, and those minors over the age of fourteen or adults over the age of eighteen whom the court has placed under conservatorship precluding legal capacity shall be considered incapacitated. All the minors over the age of fourteen but under the age of eighteen (i.e.*[*juvenile*](http://hu.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Fiatalkor%C3%BA&action=edit&redlink=1)) – provided they are not incapacitated – and adults placed under conservatorship restricting legal capacity by the court [shall be considered persons with partially](http://hu.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cselekv%C5%91k%C3%A9pess%C3%A9get_korl%C3%A1toz%C3%B3_gondnoks%C3%A1g) restricted legal capacity. *(One may be placed under conservatorship as a result of their mental infirmity, mental status or addiction.)*    **Period of eligibility:** The period of 3 years preceding the date of becoming a jobseeker, in the course of which the claimant had been employed, had been employed in the framework of the community employment scheme, had been a foster parent (provided that the foster parent had not been granted a jobseeker's allowance during that period) or had been employed as a sole trader or had been part of a partnership (provided that all the obligations to pay contributions had been fulfilled during the period of such types of employment).    **Gainful activities** shall include all types of work in return for which the person employed receives a remuneration, irrespective of the type of employment involved (the person being employed, self-employed, performing activities pursuant to a work contract etc.)    Persons   * listed in the Hungarian Registry of Sole Traders, * taking part in the activities of business associations via means of personal participation or the provision of ancillary services, * acting as executive officers in the association, or the rights and obligations of whom concerning their contribution/work are specified by the Articles of Association shall be also considered persons engaged in gainful activities.   Should the entrepreneurial activities of a sole trader be suspended for a shorter or longer period, the sole trader is to remain listed among the traders of the Hungarian Registry of Sole Traders. Therefore, the period of suspension shall also be also considered as a period involving gainful activities.    **What are the documents required for the determination of the jobseeker's allowance?**  When submitting a claim for a jobseeker's allowance, the relevant employment office will request the following documents to be presented by the client:  Documents needed for the registration process:     * Identity card * Address card * Social security card * Tax card * Document(s) proving education and qualifications     Documents needed for the determination of the jobseeker's allowance:   * Document certifying the cancellation of the sole trader's license/termination of entrepreneurial activities * Certification of the National Health Insurance Fund * Bank account number (if the claimant has one) * Fact sheet required for the determination of the jobseeker's allowance and benefit * Previous employer's certification regarding any debts to be paid by the claimant * Fact sheet regarding the income tax of the claimant at the time of the termination of employment * In the case of employment relationships terminated before 1st January 2010: The original, signed copy of the form titled "Fact sheet supporting the claim for an unemployment benefit."     **What is the amount of the jobseeker's allowance?**    The calculation of the amount of the allowance shall be based on the monthly average of the labour market contribution base (hereinafter referred to as "contribution base") deducted from the income of the person engaged in the given form of employment or paid by the sole trader in the course of the four calendar quarters preceding the submission of the claim. If the registration of the jobseeker takes place at a date later than that of the submission of the claim, the contribution shall be calculated in the course of the four calendar quarters preceding the date of the registration. If – in the course of the four calendar quarters preceding the date of becoming a jobseeker – the jobseeker was employed by more than one employer, was engaged in more types of entrepreneurial activities as a sole trader or was employed and engaged in entrepreneurial activities at the same time, the amount of the jobseeker's allowance shall be calculated according to the contribution base deducted by all of the relevant employers or paid in the course of all the entrepreneurial activities during that period.    The amount of the allowance shall equal to 60% of the person's contribution base during the period of payment, but its daily amount may not be higher than the lowest daily amount of the mandatory minimum wage in force on the day on which the person's entitlement to the allowance commences.    If the amount used for the calculation does not reach the amount of the minimum wage, then the allowance shall equal to 60% of the base calculated as above.      **What is the duration of the job seeker's allowance?**    The claimant may receive 1 day of a job-seeker's allowance for every 10 days of eligibility.    The payment of the allowance commences on the day of the jobseeker's application at the labour centre. Since 1st January 2013 claims for a jobseeker's allowance and changes regarding the circumstances affecting the payment of the allowance may be submitted via e-mail as well. For further details on this process, please visit the section [For jobseekers/Useful information](http://nfsz.munka.hu/engine.aspx?page=ak_hasznos_tudnivalok).    The job seeker's allowance may be granted for a period of a minimum of 36 days up to a maximum of 90 days.    **In what circumstances could the payment of the allowance be suspended?**    The payment of the allowance may be suspended, if the jobseeker   * becomes eligible for prenatal allowance, infant care allowance, childcare allowance or child benefit, * is held in pre-trial detention, serving a sentence of imprisonment or detention, except for the case, when the sentence of imprisonment was imposed in lieu of a fine, * is performing community employment activities for a short period (a maximum of 90 days), * is engaged in short-term gainful activities (for a maximum of 90 days) – except for activities performed under the simplified employment scheme –, provided that the jobseeker notifies the relevant labour centre of such activities in advance, * is receiving income compensation allowance, * participates in a training in the framework of which the person receives a living allowance promoting social inclusion, * is performing actual military service in the framework of voluntary reserve military service (the payment of the allowance will be suspended for the whole period of the military service).     There is no reporting obligation concerning work performed under the simplified employment scheme, and in such cases the jobseeker's allowance may be further provided irrespective of such work done.  Should the reason for the payment of the jobseeker's allowance being suspended cease to exist while all the eligibility conditions are still met, the jobseeker may be further provided with the allowance.    **In what circumstances will the payment of the allowance be stopped?**  The payment of the allowance stops, if the jobseeker   * requires it to be stopped, * becomes entitled to receive a benefitfor disabled workers, * becomes a full-time student at an educational institution, * dies, * has been provided with the jobseeker's allowance for the maximum amount of time possible, * agrees to participate in a training programme under which they receive a regular allowance   reaching the amount of the minimum wage,   * is engaged in gainful employment, except for cases, when the period of such employment is shorter than 90 days (also including activities performed under the simplified   employment scheme)      **In what circumstances shall the payment of the allowance be terminated?**    The payment of the allowance shall be terminated, if the jobseeker   * is receiving jobseeker's allowance and gets removed from the register, * gets engaged in gainful activities and fails to report that to the labour centre within 15 days upon becoming aware of that     **How do we encourage the jobseeker's to find work as soon as possible?**    If a person receiving jobseeker's allowance gets employed for an indefinite period, with a working time of at least 4 hours daily before the end of the maximum payment period of the allowance, upon request they may be granted the remaining amount left over from the period in a lump-sum. Such a payment may be received upon the condition, that the person have remained continuously employed up till the end of the period outlined above, and that the employer has confirmed the existence of the employment relationship. The claim for such a grant shall be submitted within 30 days upon the payment of the allowance being stopped.  The amount of the lump-sum payment equals to 80% of the remaining amount of the allowance for the rest of the period.  The remaining amount of the allowance may not be paid, if the jobseeker gets employed by the same employer who employed them prior to being granted a jobseeker's allowance.    If the person receiving a jobseeker's allowance gets a full-time job or a job with a working time of at least 4 hours daily for an indefinite period at a place other than that of the person's place of residence or stay before the end of the payment period of the allowance, upon request, the lump-sum allowance – the amount of which is specified by the previous section – shall be paid on the day of the payroll following the notification of the person getting gainfully employed.    Updated: 3rd March 2015 |

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| **3. Jobseeker's assistance before pension (NYEÁS)** |
| **Who is entitled to receive jobseeker's assistance before pension?**  A jobseeker's assistance before pension may be granted to a person   * who is a jobseeker, * who would like to find work, but whose individual efforts to find work have been so far unsuccessful, and to whom the national employment office fails to offer an appropriate job, * who is to reach the relevant retirement age within 5 years (age required for the determination of the assistance) at the time of the submission of the claim and who has been granted a jobseeker's assistance for at least 45 days, * who has been provided with the jobseeker's allowance for the maximum amount of time possible, or whose allowance has been terminated before the end of the payment period of the allowance due to the person's engagement in gainful employment, while the person fails to become eligible for the allowance again, * who is to reach the age required for the determination of the assistance within 3 years following the end of the maximum payment period of the jobseeker's allowance or the termination of the payment of the allowance as specified by the previous section, * who has a sufficient service period making them entitled for an old age pension and * who has not been granted any benefits under retirement age, any service allowances (for former members of the armed forces), annuities for ballet artists or temporary annuities for miners.   **Incapacitated** jobseekers or persons with **partially restricted legal capacity** concerning issues of employment shall participate in the procedure via their legal representatives.  It is the legal representative who shall act on behalf of incapacitated persons, and therefore, all the documents regarding the assistance shall be signed by the incapacitated claimant's legal representative instead of the claimant. As for the issues regarding persons with partially restricted legal capacity, the written consent of the legal representative is required. Accordingly, all the documents in the procedure concerning the assistance shall bear the legal representative's signature of consent.  *Minors under the age of fourteen, and those minors over the age of fourteen or adults over the age of eighteen whom the court has placed under conservatorship precluding legal capacity shall be considered* ***incapacitated****. All the minors over the age of fourteen but under the age of eighteen (i.e.*[*juvenile*](http://hu.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Fiatalkor%C3%BA&action=edit&redlink=1)*) – provided they are not incapacitated – and adults placed under conservatorship restricting legal capacity by the court* [*shall be considered persons with* ***partially***](http://hu.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cselekv%C5%91k%C3%A9pess%C3%A9get_korl%C3%A1toz%C3%B3_gondnoks%C3%A1g) ***restricted legal capacity****. (One may be placed under conservatorship as a result of their mental infirmity, mental status or addiction.)*    **What is the duration of the jobseeker's assistance before pension?**  The payment of the assistance commences on the day the jobseeker submits the claim to the labour centre. If the jobseeker has submitted the claim for a jobseeker's assistance before pension via e-mail – prior to the in-person registration –, the payment of the assistance commences on day the national employment office receives the data of the claimant. (Since 1st January 2013 the claims for a jobseeker's assistance and changes regarding the circumstances affecting the payment of the assistance may be submitted via e-mail as well. For further details on this process, please visit the section [For jobseekers/Useful information](http://nfsz.munka.hu/engine.aspx?page=ak_hasznos_tudnivalok).  The jobseeker's assistance before pension may be granted up until the jobseeker becomes eligible for an old age pension or a benefit for disabled workers.    **What is the amount of the jobseeker's assistance before pension?**  The amount of the assistance shall be equal to 40% of amount of the mandatory minimum wage in force on the day of the submission of the claim. The daily amount of the jobseeker's assistance before pension equals to one thirtieth of the contribution base determined as specified above.      **In what circumstances will the payment of assistance be suspended?**  *The payment of the assistance will be suspended, if the jobseeker*   * notifies the employment office of them becoming eligible for prenatal allowance, infant care allowance, childcare allowance or child benefit, * is held in pre-trial detention, serving a sentence of imprisonment or detention, except for the case, when the sentence of imprisonment was imposed in lieu of a fine, * is engaged in gainful employment irrespective of the duration of the employment (the payment of the assistance will be suspended for the whole period of such employment), * is receiving income compensation allowance, * participates in a training in the framework of which the person receives a living allowance promoting social inclusion, * is performing actual military service in the framework of voluntary reserve military service (the payment of the allowance will be suspended for the whole period of the military service), * is granted a jobseeker's allowance – if the jobseeker has become eligible for a jobseeker' allowance due to them performing casual work or becoming employed during the suspension of the assistance, * fails to comply with the notification obligation concerning the gainful employment the jobseeker gets engaged in within 15 days upon becoming aware of that (in this case the payment of the assistance will be suspended for 90 days).     **In what circumstances will the payment of the assistance be stopped?**  The payment of the assistance stops, if the jobseeker   * requires it to be stopped, * becomes entitled to receive a benefit for disabled workers, * agrees to participate in a training programme under which they receive a regular allowance reaching the amount of the minimum wage, * becomes a full-time student at an educational institution, * dies     **In what circumstances shall the payment of the assistance be terminated?**  *The payment of the assistance shall be terminated, if the jobseeker*   * gets removed from the register       Updated: 3rd March 2015 |

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**4. Cooperation with the labour centre**

Within the framework of the cooperation the job seeker has to appear in person at the labour centre on a regular basis as specified by the labour centre. The job seeker has to accept the the appropriate job, training programme, labour-market service, employment facilitating labour market program offered by the labour centre and he or she has to seek a job independently.

Since 1st of January 2013 the job-seeker can make a statement that he or she will cooperate with the labour centre in email. Electronic cooperation covers the following obligations:

Obligation to appear, obligation to report the relevant changes in his/her circumstances or occurrences which influence the registration.

For further information please contact with the local labour office.

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***4.1. Appropriate job***

A job offered by the labour centre is appropriate when:

* the job-seeker's state of health allows performance of the work in question;
* the prospective earnings equal at least the sum of the job-seekers' benefits, or at least the mandatory minimum wage if it is lower than the sum of the job-seekers' benefit; (only if the jobseeker receives unemployment benefit)
* the daily commute by public transportation between the home and the work place does not exceed three hours round trip, or two hours in respect of women supporting a child under the age of ten and single men supporting a child under the age of ten;
* the job-seeker is given a job within the framework of a regular employment relationship.

In case of a jobseeker who is not entitled to neither job-seeker benefit nor job-seeker aid, community work is also appropriate job.

***Community work*** is an appropriate job if:

* the daily commute by public transportation between the home and the work place exceeds three hours round trip, or two hours in respect of women supporting a child under the age of ten and single men supporting a child under the age of ten in case when the employer ensures the free transport of the worker;
* the daily commute by public transportation between the home and the work place exceeds four hours round trip in case when the employer ensures free accommodation, sanitary facilities, and catering for the worker within 20 km from the working place.

In this last case the job seeker has to accept the job offered by the labour centre if it will not adversely affect the ***job-seekers family circumstances***. Statement of the settlement-notary is relevant related to this question.

The daily commute by public transportation between the home and the work place in cases of ***jobseekers with changed working capacity*** should not exceed two hours.

***Short-term employment*** can also be offered to the jobseekers. This short-term employment can be community work if the job-seeker is not entitled to job-seeker benefit.

The local labour office examines the necessity of ***labour-market service*** within the framework of cooperation. Examples for labour-market services are the following: granting labour market information, counselling related to work, job seeking activity, carrier and psychological counselling.

Job seeker can participate in labour-market training; human service and can receive unemployment benefit if he or she fulfils the legal conditions.

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***4.2. Travel expanses***

**Information for jobseekers on the reimbursement of expenses**

* All the travel expenses emerging in connection with the determination of the jobseeker's allowance/jobseeker's assistance before pension,
* job seeking,
* the journeys to/from the labour centre, or
* the journeys needed to obtain the occupational health certificate required by the labour centre by means

of interurban public transport **shall be reimbursed**.

The claim for the reimbursement shall be submitted and the administration of the reimbursement takes place at the relevant labour centre at which the jobseeker has been registered.

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