

Will I have to pay an Annual Allowance tax charge?

You will be liable to pay a tax charge if the value of your benefits built up across all registered pension schemes over the tax year (known as your “Pension Input Amount” or “PIA”) is greater than your Annual Allowance. This worksheet can help you to estimate the value of both your PIA in respect of your USS benefits and your Annual Allowance. Please ensure that you have read and understood the important information and disclaimer on page five before using the worksheet.

This worksheet is based on the [official guidance available from HMRC](#). You are strongly advised to consider the official guidance to ascertain if there are any other factors not detailed in this factsheet that you may need to consider when assessing your Threshold and Adjusted Income.

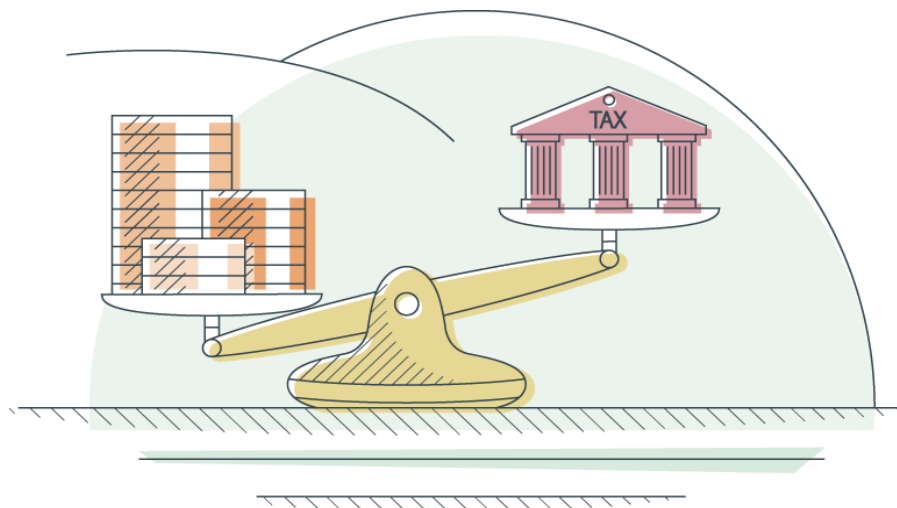
How to estimate your PIA

For tax years prior to 2023/24:

Your PIA in respect of your USS benefits is shown on your Annual Member Statement for the relevant year. Copies of previous years’ statements are available on the documents section of [My USS](#), or alternatively, to request a PIA quotation from a previous year, please contact the USS Pensions Technical Team on 0151 556 0626.

For the 2024/25 tax year:

You can find an estimate of your PIA and Tapered Annual Allowance by using the [Contributions and Tax Calculator](#) in [My USS](#). Alternatively, you can use the worksheet on the following pages. Please note in both cases the PIA estimated will be in respect of USS benefits only and will not include benefits you may have built up in other registered pension schemes.



Annual Allowance worksheet (2024/25 tax year)

Your estimated PIA for the full year is the sum of A + B + C below.

A: Retirement Income Builder benefits (defined benefit)

Pensionable salary (or Voluntary Salary Cap (VSC)) up to the £70,296.00 threshold:

£	Click or tap here to enter text.
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$$\times \frac{19}{75} = A$$

If your pensionable salary or VSC is above the threshold, just enter £70,296.00 here

B: Investment Builder benefits (defined contribution)

Pensionable salary (or VSC) above the £70,296.00 (i.e. your pensionable salary minus £70,296.00)

£	Click or tap here to enter text.
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$$\times \frac{20}{100} = B$$

If your pensionable salary is below the threshold (or your VSC is set at the salary threshold), enter zero here

C: Additional contributions

If you are making additional contributions to USS, add the amount of the contributions for the tax year here, for example these could be lump sum contributions or regular monthly additional contributions:

£	Click or tap here to enter text.	C
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D: Estimated PIA

Sum of A + B + C above:

£	Click or tap here to enter text.	=	D
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How to estimate your Tapered Annual Allowance

The Tapered Annual Allowance calculation is split into two tests. The first test is the threshold income test. If your threshold income is below £200,000 (following the steps below) then you will not be subject to the Tapered Annual Allowance. If your threshold Income is above £200,000 then proceed to Test 2.

Enter your details for the tax year here

Test 1: Threshold income

Step 1: Begin with your taxable income for the tax year:

£ Click or tap here to enter text.

Note that this is not just your earnings, but also includes investment income and any benefits in kind paid by your employer (e.g. medical insurance). We recommend that you seek independent advice if you are in any doubt what to include here.

If your pension contributions are paid by salary sacrifice, you should reduce your income by the amount sacrificed.

Step 2: Deduct your pension contributions*

For USS, this will be 6.1% of your pensionable salary (or VSC), plus any additional contributions if you are making them.

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£ Click or tap here to enter text.

Step 3: Deduct any taxed pension lump sum death benefits received:

-

£ Click or tap here to enter text.

Step 4: If you are paying your USS pension contributions via a salary sacrifice arrangement that began after 8 July 2015, then add the amount of these contributions back in.

+

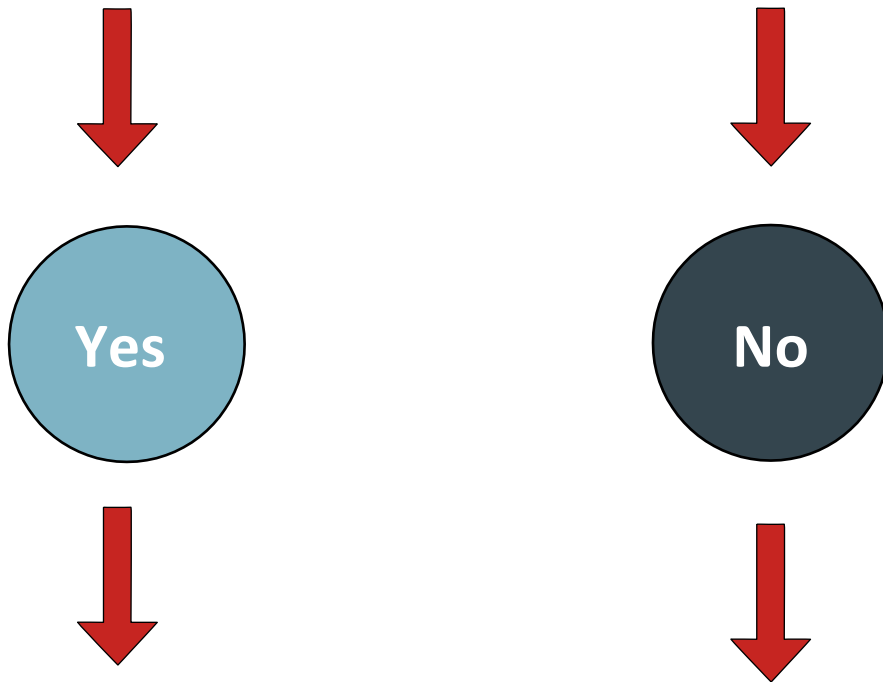
£ Click or tap here to enter text.

£ Click or tap here to enter text.

* If your pension contributions are paid through a salary sacrifice arrangement with your employer, you should enter:

- £0 in Step 2; and
- Reduce your taxable income in Step 1 by the amount of salary you sacrifice.

Is the total less than £200,000?



Your Annual Allowance is £60,000

Go to Test 2: Adjusted income

Test 2: Adjusted income

Enter your details for the tax year here

Step 1: Begin with your taxable income for the tax year:

£

Note that this is not just your earnings, but also includes investment income and any benefits in kind paid by your employer (e.g. medical insurance). We recommend that you seek independent advice if you are in any doubt what to include here.

Step 2: Add on your total PIA:

+ £

(see page 2 answer **D** for this figure.)

Step 3: Deduct your contributions to USS (see below for further explanation):

- £

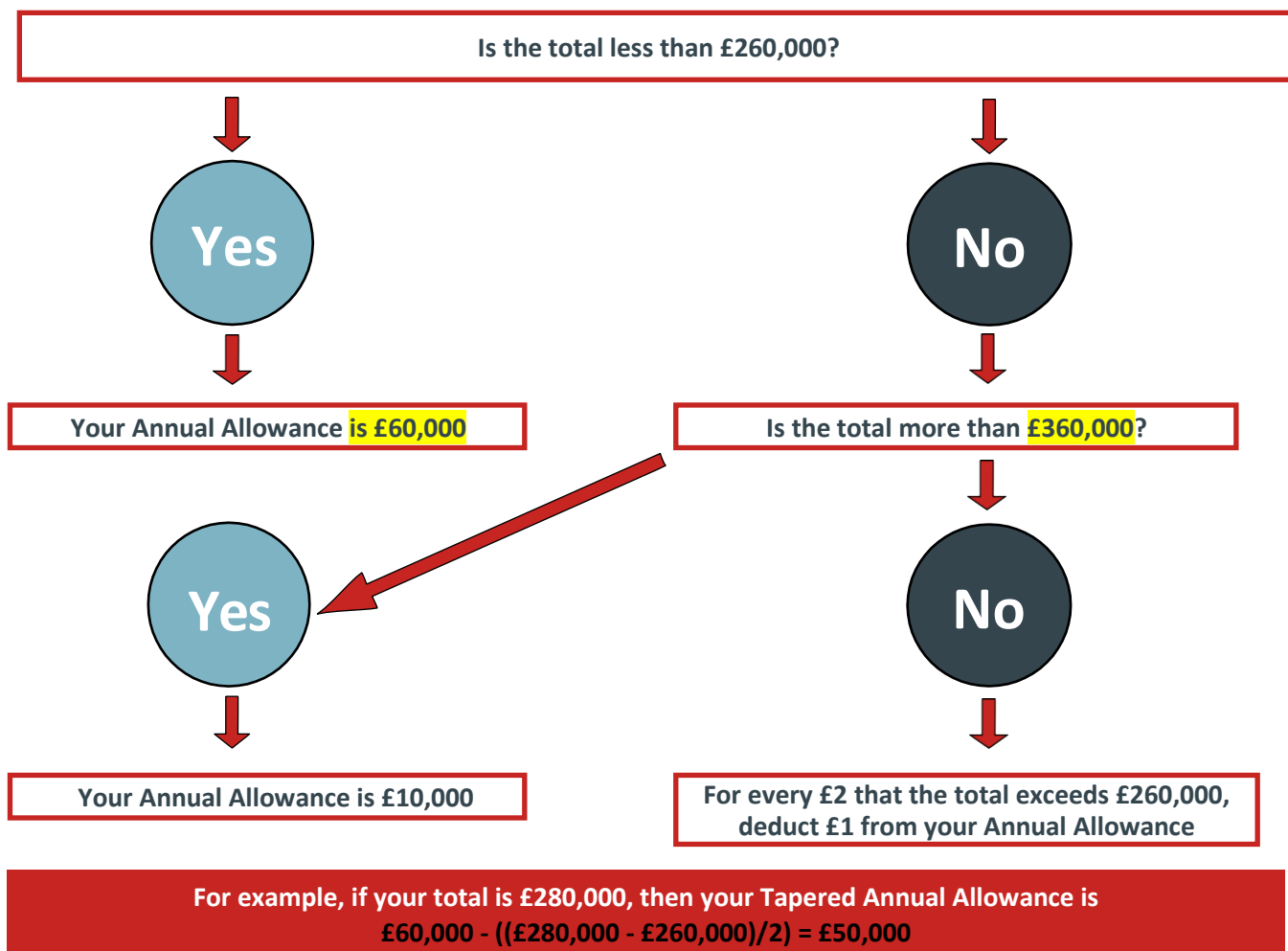
For USS, this will be 6.1% of your pensionable salary (or VSC), plus an extra 1% if you are taking the match plus any additional contributions if you are making them.

Step 4: Deduct any taxed pension lump sum death benefits received:

- £

Total

£



Important information

Please note that this worksheet is designed to give you an ‘order of magnitude’ estimate of your PIA and Tapered Annual Allowance. The worksheet should not be relied on when you are making decisions, or refraining from making decisions, about your USS benefits and/or your tax options as a number of simplifications have been made. These simplifications include (but are not limited to):

- No allowance has been made for the 5 day period from 1 April to 5 April each year, i.e. that the scheme year and the tax year do not quite align;
- No allowance has been made for added years AVC contracts or revalued benefit AVCs;
- The Money Purchase Annual Allowance is assumed not to apply. If you have triggered the Money Purchase Annual Allowance, you can use our [Contribution and Tax calculator](#) to see how this may impact you.
- The pensionable salary figure entered is assumed to remain constant throughout the tax year.

We strongly recommend that you take independent financial advice before making any decisions, or refraining from making any decisions, about your USS benefits and/or your tax options. You can find information on how to access an independent financial adviser on our [Guidance and Advice resources page](#). They may charge for advice, so make sure you understand their fees first. They should explain how much they charge and how you’ll pay their fees.

This worksheet is for general guidance only and has been created by Universities Superannuation Scheme Limited for the sole use of the participating employers of USS and their members. It is not a legal document and does not allow for all situations or eventualities. This worksheet does not provide any guarantee regarding the PIP amount or Tapered Annual Allowance figures shown, and the worksheet should not be regarded as financial advice. Neither Universities Superannuation Scheme Limited nor any of their officers or employees accept any responsibility or liability for any loss, damage or inconvenience caused by action taken (or a decision not to take action) as a result of information provided by this worksheet.

The legal and tax issues shown in this worksheet are based on our understanding of these issues at the date of publication. Please ensure that you are using the latest version of this document. Any changes in the law or HMRC rules may affect this information. Members’ benefits at retirement will always be calculated in accordance with the Scheme Rules of USS at the time the benefits become payable and any overriding legislation. If there are inconsistencies between this worksheet and the Scheme Rules, the Scheme Rules will always prevail. Any dissemination, forwarding or copying of any part of this document is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. For a glossary of our terms please see more information on our [important terms](#) page.