

## Information for Research Councils' Pension Scheme Members

### Buying Added Pension ANNUAL REMINDER AND DEADLINE DATES

If you are in **classic**, **classic plus**, **premium** or **nuvos**, you can choose to buy Added Pension to top up your pension benefits. You can buy Added Pension by making monthly contributions from your pay and/or by paying in a lump sum.

**Read the Added Pension information** – available on JSS website:

<http://jsspensions.nerc.ac.uk/members/increasing.asp>. Use the **calculator** to see how much you can buy and how much it will cost. Application forms can also be found on this page.

#### ADDED PENSION BY LUMP SUM IN THE 2020/21 SCHEME YEAR

There are two options for buying Added Pension by lump sum, which are: 1) deduction from your pay, or, 2) payment direct to JSS by bank transfer or cheque (Nuvos members cannot buy added pension via lump sum in the first 12 months of membership). Please note that because of the continued restricted access to offices **we are asking members not to pay by cheque if at all possible**.

##### 1) Payment through payroll:

You can make one lump sum payment at any time in the year through your payroll. If you would like to make a payment in the 2020/21 scheme year, you must send the completed application form to JSS by **12th February 2021**. Your payroll needs to be told in time to deduct the money from your March salary. If your application reaches the JSS after this date it will not be processed in the current scheme year.

##### 2) Payment by BACS or Cheque:

If you can only make a lump sum payment by bank transfer or by cheque (**bank transfer is preferred**), a completed application form and payment must be received by **19th February 2021**. This will ensure that eligibility checks can be carried out and that there will be enough time for the cheque payments to clear. Cheques should be made payable to **"RCPS"**.

#### ADDED PENSION BY MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE 2021/22 SCHEME YEAR

If you would like to buy added pension by monthly contributions for scheme year 2021/22, you must send the completed application form to JSS by **5th March 2021** so that there is time to instruct your payroll to start making deductions from your April salary. If your application reaches JSS after this date, it will not be processed in time. You can either pay a set amount or a set percentage of your pensionable pay.

Application forms can be found on the JSS website using the following link:

<http://jsspensions.nerc.ac.uk/members/increasing.asp>

**Please note that applications/cheques must be sent to JSS Pensions Administration and not to your employer or payroll.**

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## JSS Pensions Administration

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Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN2 1UY

### **Limit**

The current (2020/21) amount of added pension you can buy is **£5,800** per annum (**with an associated lump sum of £17,400**) for **classic** members and **£7,200** per annum for **premium, classic plus** and **nuvos** members. With effect from 1 April 2021 this will increase to **£5,900** per annum (**with an associated lump sum of £17,700**) for **classic** members and **£7,300** per annum for **premium, classic plus** and **nuvos** members. It is important to note that these limits relate to the amount of Added Pension purchased and not the amount of Added Pension contributions made.

### **Tax Relief**

You will receive tax relief on contributions made through payroll. For example, a contribution of £100 would have a net cost to you of £80 if you pay income tax at standard rate (or £60 if you pay tax at the 40% rate). To get tax relief, if you buy added pension by cheque or bank transfer, you will need to tell HM Revenue & Customs about your contribution and explain you did not receive any tax relief from the pension scheme in relation to the added pension purchase.

### **Annual Allowance**

Please note that buying added pension, particularly with a lump sum, will increase the value of your pension from one year to the next, and you could potentially become liable to an Annual Allowance tax charge. The standard Annual Allowance amount for the tax year 2021/22 is £40,000. The Annual Allowance is a personal tax responsibility and your employer or pension administrator cannot provide financial advice.

Defined benefit pension schemes are valued by multiplying the pension built up in the year by 16 and adding the increase in any automatic lump sum over the year. The calculation includes a measure to ease the effect of inflation. The Annual Allowance tax charge will normally only affect higher earners, but buying added pension directly affects the amount that your benefits increase from one year to the next, so you should ensure that you are aware of the potential for an Annual Allowance tax charge before applying.

You should also note that, if you are in one of the final salary sections of the RCPS or have linked final salary service and receive a promotion or large pay rise above the level of inflation then this will increase the value of your pension in that year, and so may limit the amount of added pension you can buy without incurring a tax charge. If you do exceed the Annual Allowance you can offset the excess against unused Annual Allowance from the previous three years (if you have bought added pension with a lump sum, or received a large pay increase in previous years this may also limit the amount of unused Annual Allowance you have from previous years).

For more detailed information on the Annual Allowance please see the [HM Revenue & Customs website](#).

### **How much Added Pension can I afford?**

Please see the Added Pension calculator on <http://jsspensions.nerc.ac.uk/members/increasing.asp>, which illustrates the costs. If you cannot access the calculator, please contact JSS.

### **Index Linking**

The amount of Added Pension you buy will be increased each year. It will be increased at the end of each scheme year (31 March) by the amount of the Consumer Price Index at September in the previous year.

### **New Entrants**

If you have joined your organisation in the last 12 months, please contact JSS about your eligibility to buy Added Pension.