



Monthly member update



May 2017

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1. Choose where your money is invested

If you're currently paying or you're considering paying contributions into the USS Investment Builder, be sure to take a look at our [new 'Investment Choices' video](#). It describes, in a simple and easy way, how contributions to the USS Investment Builder are invested.

[The USS Investment Builder](#), which launched in October 2016, sits alongside and complements the USS Retirement Income Builder. If you earn over the salary threshold (currently £55,550 for 2017/18) or you're paying additional contributions (including [the match](#)), then you'll be paying contributions into the USS Investment Builder.



The benefits that you build up in the USS Retirement Income Builder are based on a formula using your salary (up to a threshold) for each year of your scheme membership. It's a type of defined benefit pension scheme.

Any benefits that you build up in the USS Investment Builder, however, depend on the total contributions made by you and your employer (where applicable); and the performance of the funds that your contributions are invested in. How you choose to invest these contributions is an important decision. You don't need to be an expert, but it's important that you understand your options. Our new Investment Choices video explains what these options are in an easily accessible and engaging format.

2. Build additional retirement savings

Whether or not you earn over the salary threshold, any member can choose to make additional contributions to the USS Investment Builder. If you sign-up for the match, and you contribute an additional 1% of your salary (or more) into the USS Investment Builder, your employer will match the 1% contribution. You can choose to contribute more, but only the first 1% will be matched by your employer.

Find out more by visiting uss.co.uk and registering for My USS, the online service for managing your contribution and investment choices to the USS Investment Builder. You can sign-up for the match at any time, but the sooner you do so, the sooner you can start saving.

3. Updated fund factsheets

Whether you're considering signing up, or you're already paying contributions into the USS Investment Builder, you may be interested to know that the fund factsheets have been updated. They now reflect fund performances for the period up to 31 March 2017. You can view these factsheets by logging-in to My USS, then navigating to the newly revamped *Your investment options* page.

4. What else is new online for members?

Our web team have been working hard in recent weeks, to improve your online experience with USS, by rolling out a host of improvements to uss.co.uk.

Improvements to the navigation and layout mean that it's now easier than ever to find the information that you're looking for on our website, from modelling tools to animated guides.

Whether or not you like what you see, we'd love to know what you think. Please send us your feedback and suggestions through our online contact form. Select 'website feedback' from the drop down menu.

New joiners and rejoiners
Getting started

Topping up my pension
Make additional contributions

Thinking about retiring or accessing your benefits
Next steps to retirement

Active members paying into the scheme
Check My USS account

Members who no longer pay into the scheme
What to do next

Retired members receiving a pension
Receiving a pension

Useful sections
Resources
Life events
For members
For employers
How USS is run
How USS invests

Investment news
USS calls for meaningful and constructive dialogue between AkzoNobel and PPG
28/04/2017
[Read more here >](#)

USS

5. Everything you need to know about USS's 2017 Valuation

In [last month's member update](#), we announced the publication of a [series of short films](#) that we've recorded to guide you through the complexities of USS's ongoing valuation. What it is; why it's important; and what it means for you.

We're committed to keeping you informed throughout the process, so we hope that you're able to find the time to view them. In fact we'll be adding more videos in the coming weeks, so it would be especially [helpful to know what you think](#) of the four videos we've already recorded:

- [What is a valuation?](#)
- [What is a pension deficit?](#)
- [Is my USS pension safe?](#)
- [The valuation – what happens when?](#)



We hope that you've found this month's issue of USS's member update helpful. If there's a particular topic that you'd like us to cover in a future issue, [please let us know](#).

Read previous updates [here](#).

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