



# ABS Redundancy Support

Architects Benevolent Society is a charity dedicated to supporting architectural professionals and their families. If you have one year's professional work experience in the UK in architecture, architectural technology or landscape architecture, you may be eligible for help. **If you, or your team are facing redundancy, please contact a member of our welfare team today. We are here to help in as many ways as we can.**



## Money & Debt

If you have limited or no savings to fall back on and need immediate or medium-term financial support, ABS may be able to help with a regular monthly grant to help both with basic living expenses and sustainable housing costs. After a discussion with one of our Welfare Officers you would need to complete an application form to provide details of your household's current finances.

You may need advice and support with managing budgeting or current debts, and it is recommended you seek debt management advice as soon as possible.

### USEFUL LINKS:

[STEP CHANGE >](#)

[NATIONAL DEBTLINE >](#)

[MONEY SAVING EXPERT >](#)



## Housing

ABS has a partnership with Shelter (England) and can arrange a fast track referral for case work advice and support if you are at risk of losing your rented or mortgaged home. Please call and speak with one of our Welfare Officers.



## Mental Health Support

The impact of redundancy is not just financial, and sometimes it can be hard to cope. If you're struggling with the emotional effects of redundancy, perhaps suffering from sleepless nights, depression or anxiety, ABS can help by arranging a referral to our partner Anxiety UK. After a telephone assessment with Anxiety UK, should you and they feel it is appropriate, they can recommend and arrange a course of short-term therapeutic support with an accredited therapist. ABS would fund any Anxiety UK recommended support.



## Getting back to work

It is important to start looking for a new job as soon as you can. ABS partners with Renovo, who can offer a Job Search Support Programme, giving you access to a personal job coach during a 3 month period.

## Dealing with Redundancy

For information about redundancy, your rights, and how to cope with redundancy the following links are useful:

[Preparing for after redundancy >](#)  
[Redundancy help >](#)

[Legal rights when facing redundancy >](#)  
[Calculate your statutory redundancy pay >](#)

## State Support

To qualify for financial help from ABS you would be expected to claim any welfare benefit support you are entitled to. Financial support from ABS is intended to be in addition to, not to replace, entitlement to state support. Any regular financial support from a charity is disregarded for the purposes of means tested benefits, so any such help would not affect your state benefit entitlement.

It is likely that if you have recently become unemployed but are fit to work you would need to apply for either 'new style' (i.e. contribution based) Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) and/or Universal Credit (UC). The advantage of the former is that your savings and capital (or your partner's savings, capital and income) are not taken into account when claiming New Style JSA. You can find out more about these benefits, and how to calculate possible entitlement, from the links below.

When applying for Universal Credit there is a five-week period when, even if entitled to help, you will not get any financial support. Your claim starts from the date you first apply. Whilst capital assets of up to £6,000 are disregarded should you receive earnings or income after you apply, e.g. final salary, this will affect the amount paid in your initial payment(s). This means it sometimes makes sense to apply after you have received the expected income, if you can afford to wait until then. If unsure you can speak to one of our Welfare officers about this. The Society can look at helping financially whilst you wait for an award to be made, if needed.

If you are thinking of applying for Universal Credit as a self-employed person, we would recommend that you speak to one of our Welfare Officers first as the way this benefit works for self-employed people is different.

### USEFUL LINKS:

[Jobseekers Allowance >](#)

[Universal Credit Guide >](#)

[Universal Credit: Claiming Online >](#)

[Benefits Calculator >](#)

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## Contact ABS Today

help@absnet.org.uk

020 3918 8588

