

Rules for unemployment benefits

On this page we have collected the rules you need to know about in order to obtain unemployment benefit.

To be insured against unemployment while working in Denmark you have to join an unemployment insurance fund.

If you are an artist the natural choice is Danish Artist Union's unemployment fund, Artisternes a-kasse.

When you have joined Artisternes a-kasse, the rules you will have to follow to obtain unemployment benefit are:

Register with the Jobcenter on www.jobnet.dk, and create your CV

To obtain unemployment benefits you must register with the jobcenter on jobnet.dk as unemployed on your first day of unemployment.

After registering you must create your CV on jobnet.dk as well. Your CV must contain a description of your previous employment, your education and other qualifications. You should also describe the type of job you would like. Before we can approve your CV, it must meet the following criteria:

1. The job you are looking for must be in line with your education and experience.
2. Your job search must cover a wide geographical area.
3. Your CV must at least include your postcode and phone number so that a potential employer knows where you live and how you can be contacted.

If you have not created and activated your CV by two weeks, at the latest after your first day of unemployment, you cannot receive unemployment benefit.

You can only receive unemployment benefit in periods when you have been registered as unemployed and your cv is active on jobnet.dk and available to employers.

Notify the Jobcenter of holiday plans and sickness

You must notify your Jobcenter if you are sick or planning a holiday. Notify the Jobcenter the same day you become sick. If you are planning a holiday, notify the Jobcenter at least 14 days in advance.

Availability for work

The concept of availability is central to your eligibility for unemployment benefit. It means that:

- From your first day you become unemployed, you are required to seek work that you can perform – both inside and outside your profession – by answering job advertisements, submitting unsolicited applications, and using networks and personal contacts.

- Furthermore, you are obliged to accept jobs referred by your job centre at a day's notice. It is therefore important that you check your daily post and that you live and are present in Denmark.
- As a full-time insured member, you must be willing and able to work 37 hours a week on normal pay and employment conditions.
- You must apply for several jobs a week, primarily in Denmark. If there are insufficient advertised jobs, you can supplement your search with unsolicited applications.
- You must be prepared to apply for and accept work entailing up to a total of four hours' travel per day by public transport.
- If you work reduced hours and receive supplementary unemployment benefit, you must still apply for full-time work.

Mandatory attendance at meetings

You are obligated to attend meetings called by Artisternes a-kasse, your Jobcenter or other participens.

"Other participens" is typically a private firm which takes over the Jobcenter's role as regards helping you into work.

Failure to attend such meetings will disqualify you from unemployment benefit from the date of the meeting until the date you contact the meeting organizer.

You must meet with Artisternes a-kasse at least three times - you will receive a letter when to do the booking.

Quarantine if you stop work

If you terminate your employment, you will receive three weeks' quarantine without unemployment benefit. This applies regardless of whether the work is full-time or part-time.

The quarantine rules also apply if you say no to a job referral or if you reject or cut short an activation offer agreed with your Jobcenter/other party without valid reason.

The quarantine will be exercised on the same days as you would otherwise have received unemployment benefit. The quarantine becomes effective if you apply to us for benefit within three months of terminating employment or from the day you said no to a job referral.

If you are quarantined twice in the course of 12 months or if you are not available for the labour market, you will forfeit all entitlement to unemployment benefit.

You will only regain entitlement to unemployment benefit when you have worked more than 300 hours in a continuous three-month period. The work must have been performed on normal pay and employment conditions.

Supplementary unemployment benefit

Employed work:

If you work reduced hours, you can normally receive supplementary unemployment benefit for 30 weeks.

You must complete a form concerning your job so that we can assess what importance your parttime job has for your unemployment benefit.

If you are in permanent employment with a period of notice, you must have a discharge certificate to be eligible for supplementary unemployment benefit. The discharge certificate ensures that you can stop from one day to the next if you find work with longer working hours.

The discharge certificate must be received by Artisternes a-kasse not later than five weeks after you became employed. If the certificate is not received in time, supplementary unemployment benefit will only be payable from the date we receive the certificate.

Activation

As an unemployed person you are obliged to accept an activation offer from your Jobcenter.

Activation is agreed under a 'job plan' and can consist of various types of training, upgrading of skills, practical experience or wage subsidy jobs with public and private employers. The aim is to get you quickly into work.

The content of your job plan is essentially based on the needs of the labour market, but your wishes and qualifications are also taken into consideration.

When attending a mandatory work activity scheme, you must still be actively seeking work and be available for work. You may be exempted from this obligation by agreement with your Jobcenter.