

1.8 million couples benefitting from extra tax relief

Press release

Married couples and those in civil partnerships could reduce their Income Tax by up to £252 a year by sharing their Personal Allowances.



Nearly 1.8 million married couples and those in civil partnerships are using Marriage Allowance to save up to £252 a year in Income Tax, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has announced.

Summer has always been a popular season for weddings, and newly married couples or those in civil partnerships could be eligible for the tax saving. And even if they have been married for years, a change in circumstances could also mean they are newly eligible.

[Marriage Allowance](#) allows married couples or those in civil partnerships to share their personal tax allowances if one partner earns an income under their Personal Allowance threshold of £12,570 and the other is a basic rate taxpayer.

They can transfer 10% of their tax-free allowance to their partner, which is £1,260 in the 2021 to 2022 tax year. It means couples can reduce the tax they pay by up to £252 a year. Couples can backdate their claims for any of the four previous tax years, which could be worth up to a total of £1,220.

It is free to apply for Marriage Allowance and the easiest way for taxpayers to [check eligibility and make a claim](#) to receive 100% of the relief they are entitled to is via GOV.UK.

Angela MacDonald, HMRC's Deputy Chief Executive and Second Permanent Secretary, said:

Marriage Allowance lets eligible couples share their Personal

Allowances and reduce their tax by up to £252 a year. Nearly 1.8 million couples are already using the service – it is free, quick and easy to apply, just search ‘marriage allowance’ on GOV.UK.

Married couples may have experienced a change in their circumstances which could now mean they are eligible for Marriage Allowance, including:

- a recent marriage or civil partnership
- one partner has retired and the other remains working
- a change in employment due to COVID-19
- a reduction in working hours which means their earnings fall below their Personal Allowance
- unpaid leave or a career break, or
- one partner is studying or in education and not earning above their Personal Allowance

If a spouse or civil partner has died since 5 April 2017, the surviving person can still claim by contacting the [Income Tax helpline](#).

Marriage Allowance claims are automatically renewed every year. However, couples should notify HMRC if their circumstances change.

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