

TV Licensing and Students

The purpose of this guide is to explain the law regarding TV Licensing for students. This applies to all students including International students.

When do I need a TV Licence?

You need a TV Licence to watch or record TV programmes, irrespective of which channel you are watching, what device you are using (TV, computer, laptop, mobile phone, tablet), and how you receive the programme (terrestrial, satellite, cable, via the Internet or any other way). If you don't have a licence you risk prosecution and a fine of up to £1,000.

You will need a TV Licence to watch or record programmes as they're being shown on TV live or on an online TV service such as All4, Sky Go and You Tube. In addition you will need a licence if you use BBC iPlayer even if you are only watching catch-up TV. If you don't watch or record live TV on any device or use iPlayer, you can let TV Licensing know by completing a declaration.

I share a property. Do we all need a licence?

In some cases you and your flatmates will each require a separate licence for the TVs in your rooms. In others, one licence may be sufficient between all your flatmates regardless of the number of devices in the property. The tenancy agreement on your property is often a good indication of this. For example, if you share a house with other students but have an 'individual tenancy' agreement and have a television in your room you will need your own TV licence. However, if the television is only being used in a communal area, then only one licence is required. If you are sharing a house with other students and you use a TV in your own room but you have a 'joint tenancy' agreement, then only one TV Licence is required. You will need your own separate TV Licence if you live in (Middlesex) Halls of Residence and use a TV in your own room.

What if I am moving out of my student accommodation?

If you are moving out of halls or other student accommodation, remember that your TV Licence does not move with you and you will need to notify TV Licensing of your new address. You can update your details by visiting: www.tvlicensing.co.uk

You must have your current TV Licence number to hand so you can tell them your new address over the phone on 0300 790 6131, or you can do this online. If you are moving later in the summer, you

can update your details up to 90 days in advance. If you don't yet know your new address, you can sign up for the email reminder service and TV Licensing will contact you at the appropriate time to make sure you remain correctly licensed. At the same time you can choose to receive your TV Licence by email instead of receiving a paper licence in the post.

I don't need my TV Licence over the summer. Can I get a refund?

If you are not staying at University over the summer and do not need your TV Licence again before it expires, you are entitled to a refund (approx £37) of any unused quarters (three full calendar months). See the website for more information. So if you purchased your TV Licence in October and don't need it for July, August and September, you could be eligible for a refund. To check if you are eligible for a refund, call 0300 790 6131, or you can do this online. You can apply for a refund using the online refund form, up to two years after the expiry date of your licence.

www.tvlicensing.co.uk/check-if-you-need-one/topics/cancellations-and-refunds-top7

I'm moving out. Can I transfer my licence to another person?

Yes. You can transfer your TV Licence to someone who is living at your address and is covered by your current licence. However, as a TV Licence is a 'legal authorisation' given to the person named on it, you will need to give your written permission to do this. Write to: TV Licensing Bristol BS98 1TL. Don't forget to make sure you are correctly covered in your new home when you move in. It is the address that is covered not necessarily the person.

Are there any concessions for students where you need only one licence in your property?

If someone you live with is aged over 74, they can apply for a short term TV Licence, which will cover you both until the month they turn 75, at which point they become entitled to a free over 75 TV Licence. If you are blind, or have a severe visual impairment, or the person you live with is blind and it is your principal residence, you can apply for a 50% concession on the cost of your TV Licence (£75.25 & £25.25). If you live in residential care, (as defined under The Community Care Act) you may qualify for a TV Licence at the cost of just £7.50 per year.

If the person you live with is entitled to a concession and is not the current licence holder for your address, you first need to transfer the licence into their name. To do this, call 0300 790 6131 and they will talk you through what you need to do.

How will anyone know if I don't have a TV Licence?

The TV Licensing database lists addresses that don't have a TV Licence, including University accommodation, and enquiry officers do visit unlicensed properties. Remember, if you are an International student, having a criminal record may affect your stay in the UK when you need a visa extension. Also many employers perform criminal record checks after a successful interview. This may affect your ability to obtain employment.

How do I pay for a TV Licence?

A colour TV Licence currently costs £150.50. A black and white TV Licence costs £50.50. The cost of a TV licence often increases every April.

There are many different ways to pay:

- Direct Debit monthly, quarterly or annual Direct Debit payment schemes are available and can be set up online: www.tvlicensing.co.uk/pay or call 0300 370 6131/6071. This facility accepts payment from a range of debit cards. Over the first six months, you'll pay for your current TV Licence in monthly instalments of around £24. In the seventh month, you'll then start to pay in advance towards your next licence with twelve monthly instalments of less than £12 a month (so you'll make six payments before your new licence is due and six payments after). You'll continue paying for future licences in this way.
- Over-the-counter at 'PayPoint' outlets across the country, e.g. local shops supermarkets and The Post Office. Look for the sign.
- By post send a cheque/postal order made payable to 'TV Licensing' to: TV Licensing, Bristol BS98 1TL.
- TV licensing savings card students can take their savings card to any 'PayPoint' outlet to add credit towards their Licence. You can do this in cash or by debit card. For more info call 0300 555 0281.
- TV licensing payment card This has a magnetic strip that records payments only at outlets. This allows you to spread the cost over one or two weeks. To apply for a payment card call 0300 555 0286.

Students requiring further information should contact www.tvlicensing.co.uk/check-if-you-need-one/for-your-home/students-aud1

Call centre number: 0300 790 6131/6071

Mini-com: 0300 7906050

Opening hours: 08:30-18:00 Mon-Fri; 08:30-13:00 Sat

Online email answering service

www.tvlicensing.co.uk/contact-us

With thanks to the use of content from "TV licensing"

Any questions?

For more useful information contact Student Welfare Advice Team (SWAT). To see an advisor you can contact the Helpdesk, call 020 8411 3008 or email: welfare@mdx.ac.uk

Check the other Welfare Advice Guides for other useful information at: unihub.mdx.ac.uk/welfare-guides

Middlesex University Student Welfare Advice Team have made every effort to ensure that the information contained in this leaflet is accurate. Middlesex University however, cannot be held responsible for any omissions or errors. This publication can only be a guide and is not intended to replace the complex and diverse legislation covered. Statutes and regulations may change during the year without notice. If in doubt seek independent advice.

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