

# Council Tax

## For International Students

---



### Council Tax for International Students

**Please note: this leaflet is not intended for EEA Nationals. Please seek further advice from the Student Advice Centre.**

**The following rules are complex. If you are unsure of your status, please seek further advice from us.**

#### **A. What is Council Tax?**

The Council Tax is a property tax, which is set by the local authority. The amount you pay depends on the value of the property and the number of adults, aged 18 or over who live there and their individual circumstances.

#### **B. Do I have to pay?**

In general, most full-time students living with other full-time students are exempt from paying Council Tax. However, you still need to provide evidence to your local authority, please see section F.

You will also be automatically exempt, regardless of your status, if you live in University Accommodation, including halls of residence or flats, and in Newcastle, Private Properties managed by the University.

#### **C. Who Counts as a Full-time Student?**

For council tax purposes a full-time student is anyone who is enrolled on a course of education that last for at least one Academic Year and involves study, tuition or

work experience for at least 21 hours per week.

You are treated as being a full-time student from the date you start your course until the day you complete, abandon or are dismissed from your course, including all the vacations between these dates. Therefore once your course finishes you will become liable for the Council Tax for the rest of your stay in the UK, even if you are staying just to attend your Graduation Ceremony.

If you suspend your course due to illness or personal circumstances then you may still be treated as a full-time student and so exempt from the Council Tax. Please seek further advice from the SAC.

#### **D. I am a full-time Student but I live with people who are not full-time students - am I liable to pay?**

If you are living with other adults who are not full-time students and are not part of your family, then the property will be liable for Council Tax. However, you will not be liable for that bill and therefore should not have to contribute to it.

If your husband or wife is living with you and they are not full-time students, they may not have to pay either, as long they have been admitted to the UK with a 'no recourse to public funds' condition in their passport. In order to claim exemption, you need to bring all relevant Passports, your Smart Card and your Council Tax Exemption Certificate, (see section F) to the

StudentAdvice Centre. We will then issue you with a letter to give to the Council.

#### **E. Will I be entitled to any help to pay for the Council Tax?**

International Students are not usually entitled to claim Council Tax Benefit and any claim could jeopardise your stay in the UK. However, if you are liable for Council Tax and either lives alone or live in accommodation where only one adult is liable for the Council Tax, you may receive a 25% discount to your bill.

#### **F. What information do I need to give to the Council?**

Student living within Newcastle City Council area can apply for exemption using an online form available at <http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/ctonlineforms>

If you live outside the Newcastle area or live with your husband/wife who is not a full-time student, then you should obtain a Council Tax Exemption Certificate.

**Undergraduates** can obtain certificates from the Registrars Office at 6 Kensington Terrace.

**Postgraduates** need to go to their Postgraduates Faculty Office to obtain one.

You then send or hand your certificate into your local council. If your spouse is living with you (see section D) you need to go to the Student Advice Centre to get your exemption certificate letter before you send or hand your certificate in to your local council.

#### **G. What happens if I don't pay my Council Tax?**

If you are liable for the Council Tax but refuse to pay, the local authority will usually start legal proceedings to recover the money. If you encounter any problems or face difficulties paying your bill please seek further advice as soon as possible.

You can access the website at [www.unionsociety.co.uk/sac](http://www.unionsociety.co.uk/sac)

The Student Advice Centre  
Union Society  
Kings Walk  
Newcastle University  
NE1 8QB  
Phone: 0191 239 3979  
Email: [sac.reception@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:sac.reception@ncl.ac.uk)

May 2007

The SAC is a member of Advice UK  
(The independent advice network)