



TV Licences

Everyone who uses a television set, video recorder or computer which is capable of receiving authorised broadcast programmes (that is, the BBC, ITV, Channel 4, cable or satellite) needs a television licence. Since April 2004, even international students who only watch overseas broadcasts need a television licence.

Whether you need an individual licence will depend upon where and who you live with.

Halls of Residence

If you watch or record TV programmes in your own room you will need your own TV licence.

Shared Accommodation

If you jointly rent accommodation with other people then only one TV licence is needed for the house, even if you have separate televisions in each room. The licence will need to be in one person's name only and s/he may be entitled to take the licence with her/him if she moves out. Another licence will then need to be purchased.

If you rent accommodation with other people but have separate tenancy agreements then you will need to have individual TV licences if you have televisions in your own rooms. However, if the only television is in a communal area then only one licence will be needed.

How much does it cost?

TV Licences cost £135.50 (colour), £45.50 (black & white) per year. Licences can be bought online in full or by Direct Debit and by telephone. Alternatively pay by cheque, payable to TV Licensing address is below.

What happens if I do not have a TV Licence?

If a TV Licence enquiry officer visits your home, they should carry an Identification Card and be able to produce it for you and state to you the purpose of their visit. You do not have to let

them in but if you don't then they will apply for a search warrant. Once the enquiry officer has a search warrant they have the right to enter the property without giving notice.

You can be summonsed to appear before a Magistrate's Court and fined up to a maximum of £1000. If you subsequently buy a licence you could send a copy of your licence to court and this may be taken into account when assessing your case.

If you are facing court action or experience any difficulties, please seek further advice from us, immediately.

Refunds

In certain circumstances you may be able to receive a refund of your TV Licence if for example, you move out of your accommodation over the summer vacation. Please see TV Licensing website for more information.

Contact details

TV Licensing
Barton House, Bond St
Bristol BS98 1TL
General enquiries: 0870 241 6468
Website: <http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk>

You can access our Website at
www.unionssociety.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

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