



THE LICENCE FEE (RUNDFUNKBEITRAG) FOR CITIZENS

Contemporary and based on transparent rules: Education, news, culture, entertainment or sport: Public service broadcasting offers a diversity of high-quality programmes on television, on the radio, online and in media libraries. In general: one residence – one fee. For €17.50 per month, the licence fee covers all public service programmes on all distributive channels.

One residence – one fee

For all citizens, it has been the same since 2013: one residence – one fee. No matter how many televisions, radios or computers you own, the licence fee is always €17.50 per month and is only paid once per residence. This fee also covers vehicles for private use. If several people live together, only one of them need apply to pay the licence fee. This person pays the fee for the entire household. Families, cohabitants and flat shares in particular benefit from this rule. For second or additional homes a separate application is required.

What are the rules for...?

Students, apprentices and pupils

If you receive BAföG or Berufsausbildungsbeihilfe, you can apply for an exemption from the licence fee. Also, students, apprentices or pupils who still live at home and whose parents already pay the fee, can deregister. For students who are not entitled to social benefits, it's one residence, one fee. This also applies to those taking a voluntary social year (FSJ), Erasmus students or other grant holders. The training allowance (Ausbildungsvergütung) paid to trainees or apprentices is not grounds for exemption from the fee.

Pensioners

Pensioners also contribute towards financing the licence fee. If you receive a pension, you are not automatically exempt from the fee. However, if you receive social benefits in addition to your pension, such as old-age basic income support (Grundsicherung im Alter), you can apply for an exemption from the fee.

Recipients of social benefits

If you receive certain social benefits, such as basic income support (Grundsicherung) or unemployment benefit II (Arbeitslosengeld II) you can apply for an exemption from the licence fee. Recipients of unemployment benefit I, housing benefit (Wohngeld) or transitional allowance (Übergangsgeld) are not entitled to an exemption.

People with disabilities

If you have the code "RF" in your disabled person's pass (Schwerbehindertenausweis), you are only required to pay a reduced fee of €5.83 per month. This way you contribute to the accessibility of programmes that is steadily expanded. If you receive certain social benefits, you can apply for an exemption from the fee.

Persons in care or nursing facilities

You may deregister with the Beitragsservice if you live in an old people's home, a nursing facility or a care home for persons with disabilities, and are fully cared for there.

Owners of holiday homes or summer houses

If you use your holiday home, summer house or dacha outside of allotment gardens entirely privately – like a second home – a separate application for the licence fee is required.

Examples

Licence fee for a family

A family has two children. One is already of legal age and earns a salary, but still lives at home. Only one fee has to be paid for the residence, regardless of how many family members live there. The family pays €17.50 per month.

Licence fee for flat shares

In a three-person flat share, only one resident is required to pay €17.50 per month for the entire household. The residents decide who this should be. All other residents can deregister.

Service

Register

It's easy to register at www.rundfunkbeitrag.de.

Change personal information

You can make changes to your address, bank account details and name online at www.rundfunkbeitrag.de. If you relocate, please inform the Beitragsservice of your new address. If you move in with someone who already pays the licence fee, you may deregister. In this case, please inform the Beitragsservice of your name and licence fee number, as well as the name and licence fee number of the registered person already paying for that residence.

Exemptions and reductions

If you are entitled to an exemption or reduction from the licence fee, please fill out the application at www.rundfunkbeitrag.de and send it, along with relevant proof, by post to: Beitragsservice von ARD, ZDF und Deutschlandradio, 50656 Köln.

Independent and united

The German public service broadcasters are financed by the licence fee. This way of funding enables media coverage independent from commercial or political interests. It also ensures that everyone has free access to information through a number of media outlets.

Citizens, businesses, institutions and public interest bodies all contribute towards the licence fee. This way, a range of programmes is also available for those who are not able to wholly or partially contribute themselves.

**Any questions? Please contact us.
How to get in touch:**



www.rundfunkbeitrag.de



01806 999 555 10*



Beitragsservice von ARD, ZDF und Deutschlandradio, 50656 Köln

*(Calls cost 20 cents from a German landline, and a maximum of 60 cents per call from a German mobile.)