



TV Licensing, students and the law - a guide for students

When do you need a TV licence?

Equipment

- ❖ A valid TV licence is required if you watch or record programmes as they're being shown on TV or live on an online TV service – on any device. That includes a TV, laptop, tablet, mobile phone, games console, digital box, DVD/VHS recorder or anything else.
- ❖ If you only ever watch **on demand** programmes, you don't need a TV Licence. On demand includes catch-up TV, streaming or downloading programmes after they've been shown on live TV, or programmes available online before being shown on live TV.
- ❖ Providing that you have a TV licence for your main address, then you will be covered for any television receiving equipment that is **powered by its own internal battery**. However, if you plug one of these devices into the mains and use it to watch live TV away from home, you need to be covered by a separate TV Licence.

Accommodation

- ❖ If you live in College-owned accommodation and use a device to watch or record programmes as they're being shown on TV or live on an online TV service, you need your **own** TV licence.
- ❖ You also need your own licence if you are sharing a house with other students and watch or record live TV on any device in your room, and your room is a separately occupied place (a separate tenancy agreement would normally indicate that this is the case)
- ❖ If you have a separate tenancy agreement but a 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 watch or record live TV in your own room, but the house can be treated as one place shared by all, then probably only one TV licence is required (a **joint tenancy agreement** would usually be evidence that the house is a single licensable place for this purpose).

Costs

- ❖ A colour TV licence currently costs £145.50.

Refunds

- ❖ If you are not staying at the university over the summer, and do not need their TV licence again before it expires, you probably are entitled to a refund of any unused quarters (three full calendar months). So long as you purchased your TV licence in October 2015, and you don't need it for July, August or September 2016, you could be eligible for a refund.

Penalties

- ❖ Watching TV without a valid licence is a criminal offence. This can lead to prosecution, a court appearance and a fine of up to £1,000 (excluding legal costs).

For more information

- ❖ Visit www.tvlicensing.co.uk