

# tv licensing

## When and how to get a TV license - for students

### who needs a television license?

Everyone who uses any device to receive television programmes live (i.e. as they are being broadcast) needs a television licence. This includes watching on:

- television sets
- DVD/video recorders
- games consoles
- digital boxes
- PCs & laptops
- tablets & mobile phones

A licence allows the person named on it and members of their household to use one or more TV sets/devices. If housemates have separate tenancy agreements and a device in their own room they will need their own separate TV licences because they are not treated as one household. If you have a black and white television you only require a black and white licence.

If you have a colour television and/or digital recording device, or you stream live TV, you will require a colour licence. This applies even if a digital recorder is used with a black and white set.

### watching tv online

You will still need a licence if you watch TV online, unless you only watch programmes on catch-up rather than live.

If you live in halls of residence, ensure you comply with the university's rules regarding internet usage when watching TV online. Streaming and downloading in breach of copyright law, for example via torrent, is contrary to these rules and will be treated as a disciplinary offence when detected. Paid subscription services such as Netflix are not a problem, as they comply with copyright law. The university monitors for unauthorised internet use and can impose significant fines.

### renting or buying a television set

If you rent or buy a television set or digital video recorder the seller must notify TV Licensing. This also applies if you exchange a rented black and white television for a colour television.

### enforcement

TV Licensing has wide powers to detect and prosecute failure to obtain a TV licence. They maintain a database of properties where there have been licences before or where there is a record of a TV or digital recorder being bought.

They use detection equipment and employ enforcement officers who make random checks on properties and follow up letters from TV licencing. If an enquiry officer visits they will have an identification card. If you do not let them into your property they may apply to a magistrate for a search warrant which would give them the right to enter the property without notice. The enquiry officer does not have to be accompanied by a police officer and can use force to gain entry. You would be responsible for repairing the lock.

If you are found using TV receiving equipment without a licence the enquiry officer will make a report to TV licensing, who will decide whether you should be prosecuted. If you buy a licence immediately this may be taken into account in your favour if you are taken to court. If you receive notice of prosecution, contact advice(su) as soon as you can for help and advice.

If you are prosecuted, the maximum fine is £1000.

## what if I do not use the equipment to watch or record live tv programmes?

If you have a television set or video recorder but don't use it to watch or record broadcast programmes, you will not need a licence if the equipment is unable to receive any live broadcasts – for example if it can only receive analogue signals. This means that you would not need a licence if, for example, you only use the TV set:

- as a computer monitor
- to play electronic games
- to watch pre-recorded DVDs, and neither

the television set nor the video recorder were tuned into any broadcast channels or connected to an aerial or the internet.

## do I need a TV licence in university residences?

A full-time student living away from home will normally require a television licence. The only exception is for a battery only operated portable television set and the student's permanent residence is their parents' address.

Otherwise, students living in university residences need a television licence for either a black or white or a colour television set in their room.

## do I need a licence in private accommodation?

If your landlord provides a TV set, they would normally be expected to obtain a licence. However, the user of the television set or device will ultimately be responsible for ensuring there is a television licence and could therefore be liable for prosecution. You should make sure that there is a licence if you plan to use a TV provided by your landlord, either by asking to see the licence or by buying it yourself.

If you install a television set, your landlord is not responsible for ensuring that you have a licence.

Students who occupy separate self-contained accommodation, or who have separate tenancy agreements within the same address, constitute "separate households" and therefore require individual licences for their own use of a television set.

In a shared household, the licence will be in the name of one individual. If that person leaves, they are entitled to take the licence with them and transfer it to their new address. A television licence is not transferable from one person to another. If they do not need a licence where they are going they can apply for a refund and one of the remaining tenants can apply for a new licence.

## what is the cost?

The current fees for a licence (2018) are £50.50 for a black and white licence and £150.50 for a colour licence.

## how do I buy a television licence?

The easiest way to buy a licence is online at [tvlicensing.co.uk](http://tvlicensing.co.uk) but you can also complete a form and paying the fee at any PayPoint or write to TV Licensing to request a form to complete. You are not covered until the licence is issued, even if you have sent a completed application form and payment to TV Licensing.

Licences last for one year from the first day of the month of issue. You can apply to renew a licence up to a month in advance. The new licence will last for one year from the original date of expiry, not from the date the licence is renewed.

### Early renewals

If you apply to renew early, i.e. over a month before the current licence expires, (for example, to avoid an expected price rise), the new licence will run for one year from the first day of the month of issue and you cannot get a refund on the old licence, so you may not save much.

### Late renewals

If you apply for a licence after the previous licence has expired the new one will be back-dated to when the old one ran out unless you can prove that no licence was needed during this period

It is the responsibility of the named licence holder to:

- renew a licence before or when it expires. It is not an excuse for non-renewal that you did not receive a reminder
- inform TV Licensing if they move.

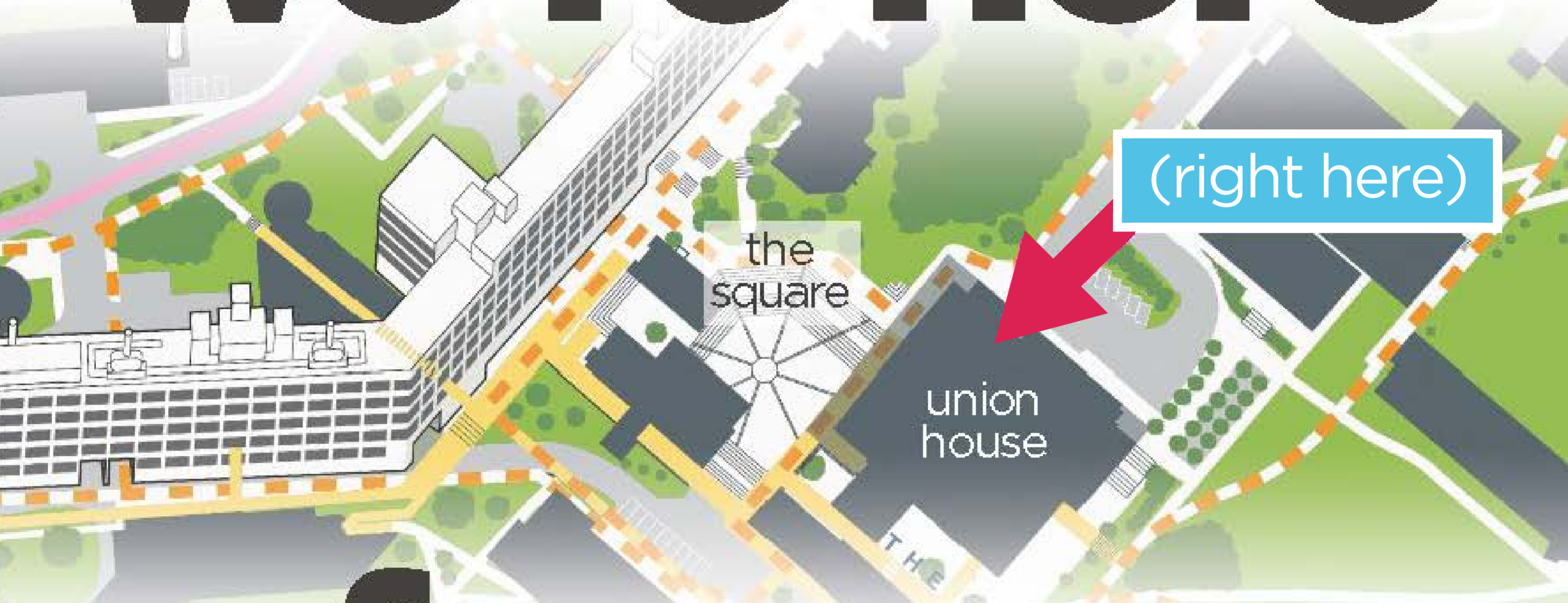
## options for paying for a tv licence

- by credit/debit card or direct debit online.
- cash or debit card payment at any PayPoint
- by post to TV Licensing by cheque or postal order
- by debit card over the phone - 0300 790 6131.

## refunds

If at the end of your tenancy there is still at least 3 full months left to run on your licence, and you don't need one in your new house, you can apply for a refund online [www.tvlicensing.co.uk/check-if-you-need-one/refunds-and-cancellations/apply-for-a-refund](http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/check-if-you-need-one/refunds-and-cancellations/apply-for-a-refund).

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