

Payment of German Broadcasting Licence Fee Tips for Guest Scientists

After you have registered your new address with the authorities, you will need to register for the Broadcasting Licence Fee (in case you are staying in Regensburg under three months and your visa is valid for the whole period of time, please contact the Foreigner's Registration Office to clarify what steps you should take to register your address).

Since the Foreigner's Registration Office forwards the contact information of the city's new residents to the „ARD ZDF Deutschlandradio Beitragsservice“ (Office for Contribution to ARD ZDF Deutschlandradio) –, you will receive a letter from „ARD ZDF Deutschlandradio Beitragsservice“, requesting payment for the broadcasting fee. The German broadcasting fee finances programing on German public television and radio channels.

What you need to know:

1. The monthly cost of the German Broadcasting Licence Fee is currently € 17.98 per household, regardless how many people live there and how many devices are capable of receiving radio and/or television signals. The fee is paid every three months.
2. It is important to distinguish between:
Is the rented housing unit a separate flat or is it part of a flat-sharing community?

A flat is (according to the definition of the „ARD ZDF Beitragsservice“) a „constructional self-contained unit, which is suitable and used for the purposes of living and/or sleeping, with its own entrance and not accessible exclusively through another flat“.

A flat-sharing community has a common (living) room, from which the individual rooms can be accessed.

→ In the case you live in a flat-sharing community, only one of the tenants must pay the broadcasting fee (and the costs should be divided among all tenants). The decision of who should pay the fee must be taken by the tenants.

3. The Broadcasting Licence Fee can be paid by the landlord or by the tenant. There are two possibilities:
 - a. The tenant registers him or herself with the „ARD ZDF Deutschlandradio Beitragsservice“ and is responsible for paying the licence fee OR
 - b. The house or flat is rented as a flat-sharing community: the landlord can pay the licence fee and increase the rent for each tenant accordingly. This is useful either for short-term stays (a couple of months) or in the case of frequent change of tenants.

If you are unsure which of the cases apply to you, you can ask your landlord or contact the Welcome Center.

Here you can find the registration form:

https://www.rundfunkbeitrag.de/anmelden_und_aendern/anmelden/

If you have further questions, you may contact the Welcome Center.

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