



Licence Fee for Citizens

ARD®

ZDF

Deutschlandradio

Simple and modern

We have long been able to watch television programmes on a tablet and listen to radio on a smart phone. Technical equipment offers an increasing number of functions and changes in the way we use media content.

Device-independent licence fees are modern and open to technological progress.



For €17.50* per month the licence fee covers all public service broadcasting programmes over all means of distributions. It also ensures that there will be a varied and freely available programme for all citizens in the future.

Public service broadcasting

Independence

Public service broadcasting in Germany is an essential part of a modern, democratic society: its programmes play a considerable part in forming of opinion. This solidarity-based funding through the licence fee ensures that everyone has free access to information and enables reporting independent from economic and political interests.

Quality

ARD, ZDF and Deutschlandradio offer high-quality-services that inform, educate and entertain: news programmes provide up-to-date and comprehensive information, whilst TV magazines and political talk shows provide background and analyses. Public service broadcasting also represents a unique range of entertainment, such as films, radio plays, TV series, sport and shows. Quality and ratings are not a contradiction, quite the opposite as several media awards show.

Variety

The programmes on TV, radio and the Internet are as wide-ranging as the interests of those who use them - a large part of the programmes are therefore barrier-free. Public service broadcasting also offers more than just the main channels: such as on ARD's regional channels, 3sat, ARTE and PHOENIX, and KI.KA as well as on the additional digital channels. With numerous events and their orchestras, ARD, ZDF and Deutschlandradio also have considerable contribution on the cultural landscape.

One residence - one fee

A simple rule applies for all citizens since 2013: one residence - one fee. The licence fee is not linked to a broadcasting device: It is irrelevant how many TVs, radios or computers there are at a residence.

The licence fee is €17.50* per month and is only paid once per residence. The fee only has to be paid by people of legal age. Vehicles for private use are also covered by this fee.

If several people live together then only one person has to register to pay the licence fee. This person pays the fee for all residents living at the residence. Families, cohabitations and those in shared accommodation in particular benefit from this rule.

A separate application is required for second homes or other residences.

Licence fee facts



Example 1: 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. From 2013 onwards only one licence fee is paid for a residence, regardless of how many family members live there. The family pays €17.50* per month.



Example 2: Licence fee for those in shared accommodation

Three people living together owning three computers, three radios and two television sets - only have to pay one licence fee. Whatever devices are available is irrelevant. One resident registers to pay the licence fee and pays €17.50* per month for the whole residence. Those living in the accommodation decide who pays it. All other residents can deregister.

Exemptions and reductions

The fee model exempts those receiving social welfare payments that are dependent on income. They can apply for an exemption. People with disabilities pay a reduced fee. An overview of the most important rules:

▪ Recipient of social welfare payments

Anyone receiving Arbeitslosengeld II, Sozialgeld or Grundsicherung im Alter can apply to obtain an exemption from the licence fee. Evidence from the relevant authorities is required in such cases.

▪ Recipient of educational grants

Anyone receiving BAföG, Berufsausbildungsbeihilfe or Ausbildungsgeld and not living with their parents can apply for an exemption from the licence fee with the corresponding evidence.

▪ People with disabilities

People with disabilities with the code 'RF' in their disabled person's pass can apply to pay a reduced contribution of €5.83* per month. Deaf and blind people and recipients of Blindenhilfe can apply for an exemption if they supply the relevant evidence.

Further information regarding exemptions and reductions as well as the corresponding application forms can be found online at www.rundfunkbeitrag.de.

To keep in mind

I am moving house

- If you already pay the licence fee then please inform the Beitragsservice von ARD, ZDF und Deutschlandradio about your new address.
- If you have not yet paid the licence fee then please register. Only one person has to be registered per residence.
- If someone lives at the residence and has already paid the licence fee then you can deregister if you used to pay the licence fee. Please state your licence fee number when contacting the Beitragsservice von ARD, ZDF und Deutschlandradio as well as the number of the registered person already living at that residence.

I want to register or change my details

- Registration is simple and can be done at www.rundfunkbeitrag.de.
- Changing addresses, account details and names can also be done online.
- If you wish to inform us of any changes in writing, please use the forms available from the local authorities (e.g. Citizen Center) as well as from banks and savings banks. The corresponding forms can also be downloaded and printed at www.rundfunkbeitrag.de.
- Deregistrations and applications for exemptions must always be made in writing.

Where can I find information?

Information

The website www.rundfunkbeitrag.de answers frequently asked questions, provides details regarding the fee and explains background information on financing public service broadcasting. You can also find forms for registration and deregistration and for changing your details as well as an application form for exemptions or reductions, amongst other things.

Forms

You can either complete your request online or print out the form as a PDF document. In addition, the forms can also be obtained from the local authorities (e.g. Citizen Center) as well as from banks and savings banks. Please send your applications along with the relevant evidence to the Beitragsservice von ARD, ZDF und Deutschlandradio, 50656 Köln.

Contact

If you have any questions, please use the contact form at www.rundfunkbeitrag.de or call our service hotline on: +49 (0) 1806 9995 5510 (20 cents/per call from German landlines, 60 cents per call from mobile telephones).

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