

Information

ARD ZDF Deutschlandradio Beitragsservice - „Rundfunkbeitrag“

Each grown-up person in Germany is obliged to pay the so called “Rundfunkbeitrag” to ARD ZDF Deutschlandradio Beitragsservice - „Rundfunkbeitrag“. This contribution is paid for the consumption of public service broadcasting (TV, internet, and radio). The system has been simplified recently: each household has to pay the fee, regardless how many people are living in the same, or how many receiving devices there are, and even whether or how much you watch public broadcasting TV or listen to the radio.

There are certain conditions under which students may be waived from paying Rundfunkbeitrag. Unfortunately, none of these conditions apply to international or exchange students. Thus, you will have to pay the Rundfunkbeitrag upon demand of payment, no matter how long you are going to stay in Aachen or Germany. There are, however, a few things to consider depending on the kind of housing you have and also on how a “household” is defined.

Single Flat

Students living in their own flat have to pay the charge of 17,50 Euros every month.

Living in a relationship

Normally, both partners in a couple are to pay the contribution. If you live together with your girlfriend or boyfriend, just one of you has to pay the amount of 17,50 Euros per month. You just have to let ARD ZDF Deutschlandradio Beitragsservice know who of you is going to pay and the other one needs to declare that to ARD ZDF Deutschlandradio Beitragsservice as well (if requested). In case of a married couple, and if one of the partners is granted BAFöG (student loan by the federal government), the other one is also waived from paying.

Shared accommodation (WG)

The new Rundfunkbeitrag rules are especially advantageous for students who live in a shared accommodation. While you had to pay for each receiving device separately before 2013, you just pay one contribution for the whole household now. This way you can divide the payment of 17,50 Euros among yourself. Just one member of the WG has to register for Rundfunkbeitrag and install the payment. The other household members need to pay their share to the registered person. Sometimes ARD ZDF Deutschlandradio Beitragsservice still sends you a request for payment; in this case you can fill in the form they sent you in order to declare that one of your room mates is already registered and paying.

If one of the flat members is excluded from paying, e.g. because of BAFöG, he or she cannot be the registered person and the others still have to pay.

Student Dormitories

Students living in a dorm room need to consider:

Does the room lie directly on a public corridor to which everyone of the dormitory has admission? In this case you have to pay the whole 17,50 Euros per month. Even though your room may not have its own kitchen and bathroom, your room is regarded as one household on its own and you cannot be exempt from the Rundfunkbeitrag payment.

If the rooms are designed like a flat in your dormitory and you live like in a WG you follow the before mentioned instructions for living in shared accommodation. A flat in a dormitory is just considered a shared accommodation if it has its own door with which it is separated from the public corridor and entrance of the building.

Sublease

If you have subleased a room, the same rules apply as for living in a single flat or living in a WG (whatever applies to you). If you have a room in a WG, talk to your room mates. In most of the cases they are already registered and paying and you can agree with them how you pay them your share.

Does your room march upon a public corridor or the staircase, it counts as a single flat and you have to pay the contribution of 17,50 on your own.

How does ARD ZDF Deutschlandradio Beitragsservice know my address?

Upon arrival to Aachen and after moving into your room you are obliged to register with the local resident's office of the city of Aachen administration. This is where ARD ZDF Deutschlandradio Beitragsservice gets informed about people who have recently moved to the city; in most cases the paying requests will be sent to you a few months after you have moved in. They do not make a difference between "normal" people who moved to the city and exchange students who do not intend to stay in Germany longer than one or two semesters.

In case you get mail from ARD ZDF Deutschlandradio Beitragsservice it is better to react to the mail and not wait until the reminders come.

If you have further questions or feel unsure about which housing condition applies to your case, feel free to contact us again or pay us a visit in person at the Info Service Center.

You can find us in the SuperC building, Templergraben 57, 3rd floor in room 329.

Further information about Rundfunkbeitrag may be found here:

www.rundfunkbeitrag.de