

Council

Tax

Council tax is an annual charge on houses and flats collected by Local Authorities. It goes towards local public service like the Fire Service, Police, rubbish collections and schools. In England, the rate you pay depends on the band your property is in (which is based on the property's value in 1991).

If I'm a student do I have to pay council tax?

Households where everyone is a full-time student are exempt and do not have to pay council tax.

Being a full-time student means:

- Your course lasts at least one academic year, for at least 24 weeks of the year
- Your course entails 21 hours or more of study, per week

You will still be considered as a full-time student if you remain registered on your course but are taking a leave of absence.

If you finish one course and are waiting to begin a new course (even if both are at the same university) you will not be considered a full-time student for the period between completion of your old course and your new course.

If you're a part-time student you will still be liable to pay council tax. If someone in your household is not a full-time student, they will still be liable to pay council tax but might qualify for a discount.

A full council tax bill is based on at least two eligible adults living in a property. There is a 25% discount available when there is only a single eligible adult in a property. The Local Authority are only able to pursue the occupiers who aren't full-time students.

How do I register as exempt?

Birmingham City Council will receive confirmation of your student status direct from the University, but you still need to apply online for an exemption.

You will need to visit [this website](#) and have details of everyone living in the house handy.

If you are a PhD student who is writing-up their thesis, [fill out this form](#).

If the Council asks for further evidence to process your application, you can visit [the University's Verify site](#) to download a letter confirming your student status.

International students living with only their spouses or children

If you are an international student and the only other adult non-student living in your property is your spouse (husband, wife), civil partner or other adult dependant, that person will be “disregarded” for the purposes of council tax if:

- That person is not a British citizen
- They have been given immigration permission to be in the UK with either a “no recourse to public funds” condition or a prohibition from working

[Click here](#) for more information on council tax in Birmingham.

You can contact the Birmingham City Council council tax department on **0121 303 1113**.

If you have any queries concerning your council tax liability or extensions, please complete our [online submission form](#) and one of our advisers will be in touch.

