



A Guide to Council Tax and Students

Our contact details

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk and select Council Tax, followed by Discounts/ Exemptions

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Our offices are open Monday to Friday
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In writing

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What about International Students?

International students and their families can be held liable for Council Tax and can apply for discounts and exemptions in the same way as UK students.

If your family have come to join you in Aberdeenshire while you complete your studies and have no entitlement to public funds, they can be disregarded as well.

You still need to complete an online application form and in addition, you will need to provide proof that your family has no entitlement to public funds.

This is usually done by bringing their passports into one of our offices.

Can I Get Any Other Help With My Council Tax or Rent?

Some students can apply for Council Tax Reduction or Housing Benefit. As the rules regarding which students can claim these benefits are complex, more information can be found at

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/benefits-and-grants/welfare-reform/council-tax-reduction/



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What Is Council Tax?

Council Tax is the local government form of taxation. It is based on the value of the property you stay in.

Who Has To Pay Council Tax?

Usually the residents of a property have to pay the Council Tax. In some special circumstances, the owner of a property pays the Council Tax even if they do not reside in it.

Do students have to pay Council Tax?

Council Tax is based on there being 2 adults living in a property.

Certain adults such as students are not counted as living in a property and are referred to as being “disregarded” for Council Tax purposes.

If all the residents of a property are “disregarded” your property can be exempt from Council Tax. If all but one of the residents of a property can be “disregarded” a 25% discount can be given on the Council Tax bill.



Who is a student for the purpose of Council Tax?

There are 4 types of students for Council Tax purposes:

1. Full Time Students

A full time student is a person who is studying for at least 21 hours per week, who is required to attend for at least 24 weeks per year and whose course lasts for at least 1 academic year.

The place of study should be at a prescribed educational establishment, which includes those in other EU states.

2. Students Under 20 On A Qualifying Course of Education

A qualifying course of education is one which:

- Last no more than 3 months

- Is not a correspondence course
- Requires study of at least 12 hours per week
- Is not undertaken as a result of the persons employment
- Is at or below a Higher Grade, A Level, ONC/OND

3. Foreign Language Assistants

The foreign language assistant should have an appointment at a school or other educational establishment and be registered with the Central Bureau for Education Visits and Exchanges.

4. Student Nurses

Student nurses studying academic courses at University or College.