

Trick for students to watch live telly and use iPlayer without a licence



In some circumstances you won't need to get your own licence, even if you've moved into your own digs.

It's a bizarre rule, but the [TV Licensing website](#) says:

Students... won't be covered by their parents' licence, unless they only ever use devices that are powered solely by their own internal batteries, and aren't plugged into an aerial or the mains.

This means students whose parents have a TV licence are fine to use BBC iPlayer and/or watch live television on a tablet, smartphone or laptop that's not charging at the time, without having to pay for their own licence (as long as that's your usual place of residence outside term time).

However, if you're watching live TV or using BBC iPlayer on a desktop computer, games console or television/digital box, you will need a licence. Depending on your accommodation...

- **Halls of residence.** If you're in halls of residence you'll probably be covered for communal areas but not your own room. Check with your university.
- **Private accommodation.** If you're living out of halls in a shared house and have signed a joint tenancy agreement, you'll need only one licence for the household. However, if you have separate agreements you'll need one for your room.

Remember, if you're only watching [non-BBC catch-up](#), you don't need a licence regardless of where you live.

If you do pay for a licence, as a student you can also get a [refund for the summer](#).