



Points to remember

- From 1/6/2001 full-time students are excluded from joint and several liability, for Council Tax, where they share accommodation with non-students.
- You should advise the council of any change of address as soon as possible.
- Do not ignore a Council Tax bill – confirm your student status with the Council.
- Council Tax Student Discounts and Exemptions can be backdated.
- You will already be exempt if you live in a recognised hall of residence.
- Part-time students are NOT entitled to claim Council Tax Exemption. They can, however, apply for Council Tax Benefit.



Further information

Further information may be obtained from your local authority – the number can be found in your local telephone directory under '**Councils**'. Alternatively you can visit the web site: **wycombe.gov.uk** or **chiltern.gov.uk**, select their Homepage then enter '**council tax discounts**' in the search field.

The information above was last updated in 11/11. However, we recommend before you make any decision or enter into any agreement you carry out your own checks.

get in touch:

High Wycombe Campus
Reception
t: 01494 603 016
e: suadvice@bucks.ac.uk

Uxbridge Campus
Reception
t: 01494 605 180
e: suadvice@bucks.ac.uk

Bucks Students' Union Advice Centre is a member of:
Advice UK - The Voice of Independent Advice
CPAG - The Child Poverty Action Group
NASMA - The National Association of Student Money Adviser
UKCISA - The UK Council for International Student Affairs

For our current opening times please go to our website: bucksstudent.com/advice.
Email us on: suadvice@bucks.ac.uk or
call us on 01494 603 016.

Appointments can often be arranged outside our published times so please ask. We will usually be able to respond to any enquiry within 48 hours during term-time, but often more quickly.

"a helping hand for
everything student"

bucks students' union

Advice Centre



COUNCIL TAX & STUDENTS

advice

BUCKS
STUDENTS' UNION
bucksstudent.com



What is council tax?

It is a system of local taxation collected by the local authorities (Council). It is a tax on domestic property. Generally, the bigger the property is, the more tax will be charged.



Are students exempt from paying the council tax

Although many people believe that students are exempt from paying Council Tax, this is not always the case. Certain factors are involved including whether you are a part-time or full-time student, where you live and with whom you live.

For the purposes of Council Tax, the **definition** of a full-time student is:

1. A student studying at a university, college or other educational establishment which:
 - lasts for at least one academic year
 - involves at least 24 weeks per year
 - involves at least 21 hours attendance per week
 This includes students undertaking work experience. If work experience exceeds study then it will not be treated as a full-time course of education

OR

2. A student who is:
 - under 20 years of age
 - studying on a course up to but not above Higher Level, Ordinary National Certificate (ONC) or Ordinary National Diploma (OND)
 - involves at least 12 hours attendance per week.

- Should be for at least 3 months' duration and cannot be a correspondence course, or undertaken as a result of your occupation or office.

OR

3. A student nurse



Council tax exemption

You may apply for an Exemption if:

- You live alone and are a full-time student.
- All the adult residents are full-time students.
- The residents are any mixture of the following:
 - Full-time students
 - Non-British students and their spouses
 - Persons under 18
 - School leavers under 20
 - Severely mentally impaired persons.
- The property is unoccupied and you are the sole liable person and a full-time student.
- All of the liable persons of an unoccupied property are full-time students.

1. Halls of Residence

Halls of residence and other institutionally owned or managed accommodation which are 'predominantly' for the use of students are automatically exempt from Council Tax.

2. Houses Occupied Solely by Students

If one or more of the residents are registered as part-time students the property will be subject to Council Tax).

If houses occupied solely by full-time students receive a bill, you should send student status certificates for all the residents to the Council claiming full exemption.

NB. This exemption may continue during vacations providing the student holds an interest in any part of the dwelling and he/she has previously used or intends to use the property as term-time accommodation.

3. Resident Landlords

If you rent a room in a house where your landlord is also resident, it is your landlord who is liable to pay Council Tax. He/she should not ask you to pay any of the bill directly, but they may have already included some of the cost in your rent.

4. Houses in Multiple Occupation

These are houses where each room is let out separately under different letting agreements (e.g. a house converted to bedsits where some facilities are shared). The landlord is liable to pay the Council Tax on the whole property and should not pass the bill directly on to the tenants. However, he/she can incorporate the cost within the rent. Remember that if the house is wholly occupied by full-time students it will be exempt from Council Tax and you may be able to negotiate a reduction in the rent on this basis.