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Berlin, 19.12.2018

Newsletter

Information about the broadcast fee for international students

Dear Sir or Madam,

For years we have been politically involved concerning the issue “broadcasting fee for students” to support all students in Germany, including international students. Up until now we have received negative replies from the German States and from the radio and television License Fee Collection Agency. On the recommendation of the committee for international matters (“Ausschuss Internationales”), we would like to inform you about the few exemption options for international students.

Students from EU countries can be exempt from their obligation to contribute if they receive public financial support for studies in their home countries. But since this option of exemption for EU-students is not explicitly indicated in the State Broadcasting Treaty, the exemption has to be demanded as a case of particular hardship.

A hardship application to be exempt from the license fee has to be submitted at the License Fee Collection Agency <http://www.rundfunkbeitrag.de>. Afterwards, proof of public financial funding for studies in the home country must be submitted. The License Fee Collection Agency has developed a form for this purpose (in English and German) which you can only obtain from the license fee collecting agency directly. The relevant authorities of the home country, using this form, have to confirm that the financial support is granted due to financial need.

For students from non-EU countries there is generally no opportunity to be exempt from the license fee. An exemption as it applies to German citizens, is only possible on the basis of social need which is excluded automatically by the mandatory proof of financial resources submitted by the students from non-EU countries.