

In France, there are different taxes which may concern you during your stay.

## 4 very important points

**1** Foreign students are under the same fiscal obligations as French citizens.

**2** Exceeding the required date for tax payment gives rise to a penalty of 10% payment.

**3** If you have a TV set, you have to settle the annual fee paid to the government to cover the costs of public television service or a fine of 300 Euros will be charged.

**4** Your landlord can ask you to pay him for the cost of refuse collection and street cleaning tax (generally included in rental charges).

### **Local tax paid by residents**

As a rule, students must pay the local tax as other residents. It is established every year, in the name of the person who lives in the accommodation as from the January the 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year be they a landlord, tenant, or free occupier.

#### **Calculation of the tax**

This tax is calculated in relation to the rental value of the accommodation (surface, quality, location), the number of people occupying it and their income. You must pay it even if you moved on January the 2<sup>nd</sup>. As a rule, you will receive notification of tax some time in September/October and it must be paid before November/December the 15<sup>th</sup>. After this date, there is an increased of the amount of 10%.

#### **Tax exemption**

Being a student does not exempted you from this tax. On the other hand, if you fill in your income tax return with your student's address, you will automatically get tax reduction (and in some cases exemption), or tax allowance which are allocated in relation to your income.

If you are living in a university hall of residence managed by the CROUS or similar organization (hostels...) or if you are living at someone's home who rents out or sublets a part of his home to you, you do not have to pay the local tax.

#### **The television license**

It allows the financing of public television and radio service.

From the moment you have a television, whether it belongs to you or not, you have to pay this tax. Since January the 1<sup>st</sup> 2005, this tax is associated to one household (as defined for tax purposes), it means that only one tax must be paid for all the persons occupying this household, whatever the number of televisions in the house (or the number of homes occupied).

Moreover, since January 1<sup>st</sup> 2005, this TV tax rate is added to the local rates tax. They will therefore be paid simultaneously. The TV license tax costs 118 € in 2009.

#### **Household refuse collection tax**

Landlords on January the 1<sup>st</sup> of every year must pay this tax. It is to contribute to the local services which collect household rubbish. They have the right to request repayment from their tenants.

#### **Street cleaning tax**

This is a local tax which covers the costs of maintenance of public roads. In the same way, the landlord can ask you to repay this tax in form of rental charges.

Ask your landlord about these taxes before signing the house-letting lease in order to avoid unpleasant surprises.

#### **Income tax**

If you receive an income (salaries, maintenance allowances, etc.) you have to declare it by filling in an income tax form. Even if your income is not sufficient in order that you do not pay tax, you still have to fill in a tax form.

Sums paid to students for their research work carried out with laboratories within the framework of contracts signed between universities and companies, for instance, are considered as salaries and are therefore included in the taxable category.

However, allowances for intern-ship paid by companies to students are not taxable if they met the following conditions:

- The training periods has to be a part of the program of the college or the studies.
- They have to be absolutely necessary as stipulated by the college rules or to be essential for taking an exam or obtaining a diploma.
- Their duration must not exceed 3 months.

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### **More information :**

**Local and income tax :** <http://www.french-property.com/reference/taxation.htm>

**All taxes :** <http://www.impots.gouv.fr>

Public Services: <http://vosdroits.service-public.fr/particuliers/N206.xhtml>