

BEITRAGSSERVICE

The German License Fee (for public broadcast)

A step by step instruction manual

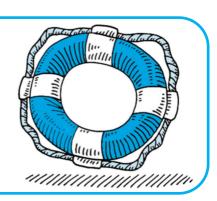
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Help and Support

The tutors of the International Office offer help and support for all international students of the University of Konstanz on this topic!

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1. Basic information

Every adult (18 years and older) who intends to live in Germany for more than 90 days, is legally obliged to register in the municipality of residence within 2 weeks after moving in. Once registered in Germany one is legally obliged to register for the license fee for the public-service broadcasting which is billable from the day one moves in to residence.

Currently this fee is 18.36 EUR per month and per household.

The municipal registration office ("Bürgerbüro") will notify the contribution service ("Beitragsservice") of this. The latter will then write an initial letter to the person concerned to clarify the contribution obligation for the dwelling/household.

Since not every person, but only one person on behalf of a household has to pay the fee and every person must be assigned to a household, it is important to check, whether you or your flatmates in the "WG" (= shared flat) are already registered and have a so called "Beitragsnummer" (= contribution number).

If several rooms are separated from a generally accessible hallway or staircase by a common front door, the rules for a "WG" apply.

If your room is located on a generally accessible hallway, it is considered as a dwelling. It does not matter if you have your own bathroom or kitchen: The monthly license fee of 18.36 EUR per room must be paid.

Provided no license fee account for a dwelling/household exists, the contribution service recommends that you register to promptly pay the license fee to avoid possible claims for recovery.

In a "WG", only one resident is always required to register with the contribution service. All other residents who have already registered can de-register to assign themselves to the remaining registered flatmate. If the contribution service asks you as a WG resident to clarify your contribution obligation, please send the contribution service the contribution number of the person who is paying the license fee for the dwelling/household.

Only German students receiving the BAföG scholarship or persons receiving certain other state benefits (social welfare, unemployment benefits, etc.) amongst others can be individually granted an exemption upon application and do not have to pay the license fee.

In a "WG", it is only possible to be exempt from the obligation to pay the license fee if everyone meets the requirement for the exemption. If one occupant does not meet the requirement, the person must register with the contribution service and pay the license fee.

IMPORTANT:



Please always indicate your "Beitragsnummer" (= contribution number) in the reason of payment when transferring the license fee, so the payment can be correctly assigned to your household!

2. What happens in chronoligical order

If citizens move into a dwelling and legally register their new place of residence, the municipal registration office ("Bürgerbüro") will notify the contribution service ("Beitragsservice") of this. The latter will then write an initial letter to the persons concerned in order to clarify the contribution obligation for the dwelling/household.



Note:

This can sometimes take a considerable amount of time (several weeks or months)!

2.1. "Aktenzeichen" (= file number)

With this first letter one receives an "Aktenzeichen" (= file number), which can be found in the header (10-digit number) and this means one is *not yet* registered with the contribution service.



Note:



If you ignore this first letter or not respond to it, you might get another letter as a reminder with a *new and different* "Aktenzeichen"!

Please only use the latest "Aktenzeichen" when responding!

Note:



If you keep ignoring or not responding to the letters from the Beitragsservice, you will be automatically registered as a single-person household after some processing time! This could also happen *after* you may have left Konstanz or Germany for good in your absence!

2.2. "Beitragsnummer" (= contribution number)

After ignoring or not responding to this first letter and possibly another letter as reminder to register for the license fee (note: then one receives new "Aktenzeichen"!), one will be automatically registered by the contribution service after some processing time, thus one receives an own "Beitragsnummer" (9-digit number).

Of course, one will also receive the "Beitragsnummer" upon active registration.

This Beitragsnummer is written in the header on every letter one henceforth receives from the contribution service once one has (been) registered.



Only persons with a "Beitragsnummer" are obliged to pay on behalf of their household. Therefore, only one person per household should have a "Beitragsnummer". However it isn't enough that a person in a household pays the fees. The Beitragsservice has to know, that **you** live in that person's household too!

Please be assured, that everyone will be registered automatically one day (as single person household) when you keep ignoring or not responding to the letters!

Please make sure to de-register before leaving Germany and returning to your home country.

It is therefore of utmost importance to **clarify your situation** with the contribution service as soon as possible and long before leaving the country permanently!

IMPORTANT:



Not receiving the letter from the Beitragsservice, does not mean that you have not got the obligation to pay the fee!

(It's merely considered as a delay due to administrative reasons).

2.3. Paying the license fee

If a person has successfully registered with the Beitragsservice (online or by answering to the letter by postal mail) or has been registered automatically due to inactivity (by ignoring or not reacting to letter(s)) and received a "Beitragsnummer", the person is then obliged to pay for his/her household (18.36 EUR per month). The payment period starts on the day one officially moved into the dwelling and one is expected to pay the license fee in advance.

If the registration with the Beitragsservice has happened due to inactivity (by ignoring or not reacting to letter(s) previously sent by the Beitragsservice), then the default payment rate and mode will be in place, which is:

Rate of payment ("Zahlungsrhythmus"):

- 1. In the middle of every 3 months (on the 15th) [=55.08 EUR]
- 2. Quarterly in advance for every 3 months (1.1./1.4./1.7./1.10.) [=55.08 EUR]
- 3. Every 6 months in advance (1.1./1.7.) [=110.16 EUR]
- 4. Annually in advance (1.1.) [=220.32 EUR]

Mode of payment ("Zahlungsart"):

- 1. By direct debit mandate from your bank account
- 2. By bank transfer

Bank details of Beitragsservice

for residents in Baden-Württemberg (e.g. Konstanz)

Recipient:	Südwestrundfunk (SWR)		
Bank:	Landesbank Baden-Württemberg Stuttgart		
Account number:	136 2826	Bank code:	600 501 01
IBAN:	DE26 6005 0101 0001 3628 26	BIC (Swift):	SOLADEST600

Note:



If you are *not* living in Baden-Württemberg, please look up the bank details for your responsible contribution service here (select your federal state of residence): https://www.rundfunkbeitrag.de/bankverbindung/index_ger.html

Note:



The payment mode by direct debit mandate requires you to have a checking/giro account that also uses the Euro currency in the SEPA area and you will need to submit your agreement to the SEPA direct debit mandate with your original signature by regular postal mail. (Not recommended for international exchange students)

3. Registration as one-person-household

You moved to Konstanz and moved into a single apartment or live on your own? Then here are the possibilities to register or get registered with Beitragsservice as one-person-household.

3.1. <u>If you have received a letter from Beitragsservice and have an</u> "Aktenzeichen" (= file number)

With this first letter one receives an "Aktenzeichen", which can be found in the header (10-digit number) and this means one is *not yet* registered with the contribution service.

3.1.1. Go to website indicated in the header of the letter



Go to website: https://antworten.rundfunkbeitrag.de/

3.1.2. Be prepared to enter "Aktenzeichen" (indicated in the header of the letter)



3.1.3. Enter "Aktenzeichen" and ZIP code into form and click "Weiter" (= next)



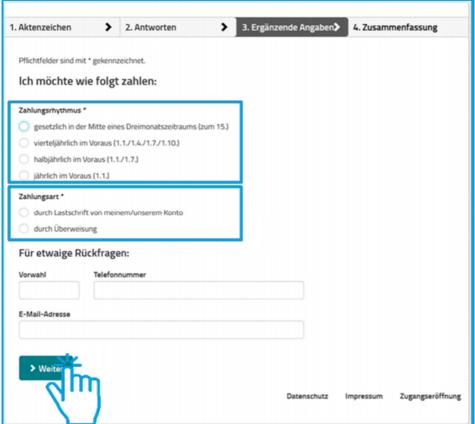
3.1.4. Select right answer to questions and click "Weiter" (= next)



- 1. Confirm with "Ja" if the address they chose to contact you is correct. Select "Nein" if it is wrong and correct the address accordingly.
- 2. Select your answer:
 - a. I register my apartment with the "Beitragsservice" as of my registration date with the municipal registration office ("Bürgerbüro")
 - b. I already have an account with the "Beitragsservice" for this apartment
 - c. My flatmate already pays the license fee for this apartment (chapter 4.1)
- 3. Select month and year of your registration with the municipal registration office ("Bürgerbüro").

1. Aktenzeichen > 2. Antworten > 3. Freänzende Angaben> 4. Zusammenfassung

3.1.5. Select your preferred payment rate and mode and click "Weiter" (= next)



Rate of payment ("Zahlungsrhythmus"):

- 1. In the middle of every 3 months (on the 15th) [=55.08 EUR]
- 2. Quarterly in advance for every 3 months (1.1./1.4./1.7./1.10.) [=55.08 EUR]
- 3. Every 6 months in advance (1.1./1.7.) [=110.16 EUR]
- 4. Annually in advance (1.1.) [=220.32 EUR]

Mode of payment ("Zahlungsart"):

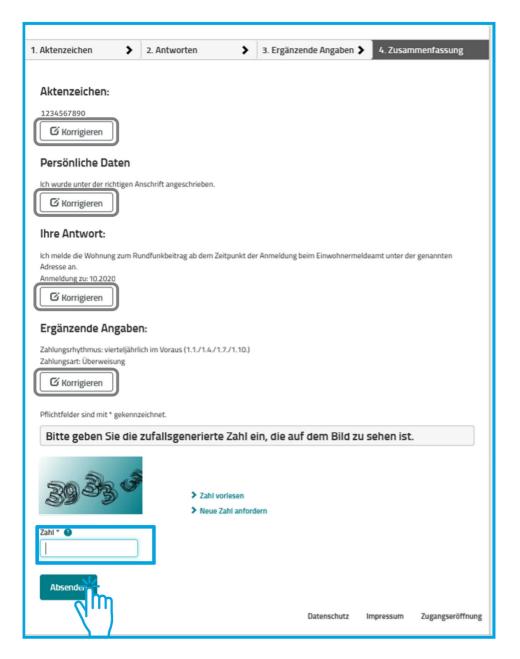
- 1. By direct debit mandate from your bank account
- 2. By bank transfer

Note:



The payment mode by direct debit mandate requires you to have a checking/giro account that also uses the Euro currency in the <u>SEPA area</u> and you will need to submit your agreement to the <u>SEPA direct debit mandate</u> with your original signature by regular postal mail. (Not recommended for international exchange students)

3.1.6. Check whether your personal data is correct in the summary and click "Absenden" (= send)



If not, correct by clicking on the respective button "Korrigieren" (= correct). Captcha: To complete the form, fill in the numbers you see in the field below. If you cannot read them, generate a new image by clicking on "Neue Zahl anfordern". Then click on "Absenden" (= send).

3.1.7. You should receive a registration confirmation by regular postal mail.

After some processing time you should receive the registration confirmation by mail from the Beitragsservice. In it you will find your "Beitragsnummer" (= contribution number) in the header.

3.2. <u>If you haven't received a letter from Beitragsservice yet and don't have an "Aktenzeichen"</u> (= file number)

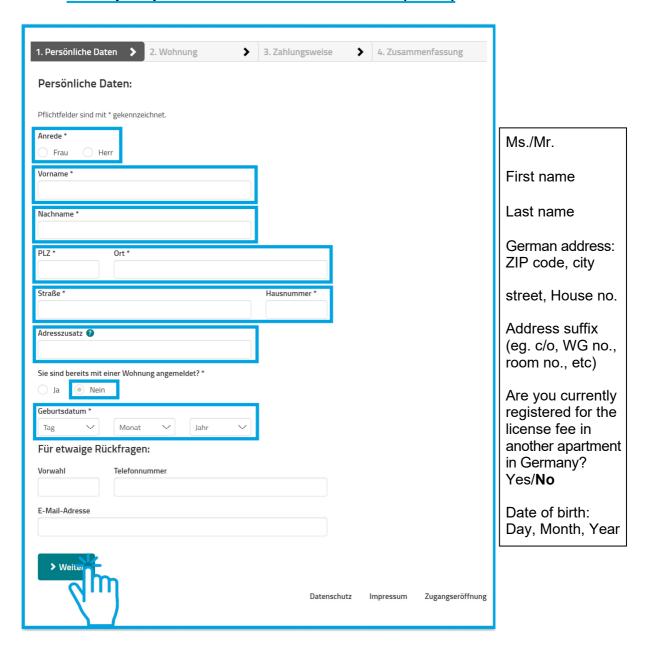
The quickest and safest way to register oneself to the Beitragsservice is to register online.

3.2.1. Go to website

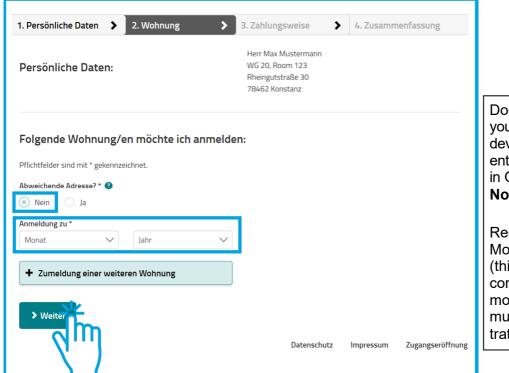
Go to website:

https://www.rundfunkbeitrag.de/buergerinnen und buerger/formulare/anmelden/index ger.html

3.2.2. Fill in your personal data and click "Weiter" (=next)



3.2.3. Select the month and the year in which you moved into your apartment in Germany and click "Weiter" (=next)



Does the address you like to register deviate from the entered address in Germany? **No**/Yes

Register from: Month, Year (this date must correlate to month/year of municipal registration)

3.2.4. Select your preferred payment rate and mode and click "Weiter" (=next)



Rate of payment ("Zahlungsrhythmus"):

- 1. In the middle of every 3 months (on the 15th) [=55.08 EUR]
- 2. Quarterly in advance for every 3 months (1.1./1.4./1.7./1.10.) [=55.08 EUR]
- 3. Every 6 months in advance (1.1./1.7.) [=110.16 EUR]
- 4. Annually in advance (1.1.) [=220.32 EUR]

Mode of payment ("Zahlungsart"):

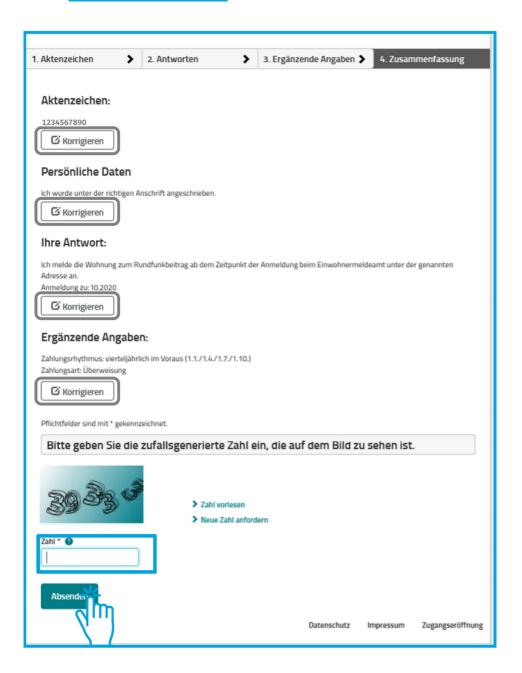
- 1. By direct debit mandate from your bank account
- 2. By bank transfer

Note:



The payment mode by direct debit mandate requires you to have a checking/giro account that also uses the Euro currency in the <u>SEPA area</u> and you will need to submit your agreement to the <u>SEPA direct debit mandate</u> with your original signature by regular postal mail. (Not recommended for international exchange students)

3.2.5. Check whether your personal data is correct in the summary and click "Absenden" (= send)



If not, correct by clicking on the respective button "Korrigieren" (= correct). Captcha: To complete the form, fill in the numbers you see in the field below. If you cannot read them, generate a new image by clicking on "Neue Zahl anfordern". Then click on "Absenden" (= send).

3.2.6. You should receive a registration confirmation by regular postal mail.

After some processing time you should receive the registration confirmation by mail from the Beitragsservice. In it you will find your "Beitragsnummer" (= contribution number) in the header.

4. Registration as multi-person-household (I'm paying)

You moved to Konstanz and moved into a shared flat ("WG") with flatmates and you are taking over the payment for your household? Then here are the possibilities to register with Beitragsservice as multi-person-household.

4.1. <u>If you have received a letter from Beitragsservice and have an</u> "Aktenzeichen" (= file number)

With this first letter from the Beitragsservice one receives an "Aktenzeichen", which can be found in the header (10-digit number) and this means one is *not yet* registered with the contribution service.

The procedures for you are the same as for the registration as one-person-household, so please follow the procedures as described in chapter 3.1.

When you've received your registration confirmation after some processing time and with it your 9-digit "Beitragsnummer" (= contribution number) only then can all other flatmates make sure to assign themselves to your household.



Flatmates who are already registered with the Beitragsservice and have a "Beitragsnummer" must de-register as described in chapter 8.

Flatmates who are not yet registered with the Beitragsservice and don't have a "Beitragsnummer" must register as described in chapter 5.

4.2. <u>If you haven't received a letter from Beitragsservice yet and don't</u> have an "Aktenzeichen" (= file number)

The procedures for you are the same as for the registration as one-person-household, so please follow the procedures described in the chapter 3.2.

When you've received your registration confirmation after some processing time and with it your 9-digit "Beitragsnummer" (= contribution number) only then can all other flatmates make sure to assign themselves to your household.



Flatmates who are already registered with the Beitragsservice and have a "Beitragsnummer" must de-register as described in chapter 8.

Flatmates who are not yet registered with the Beitragsservice and don't have a "Beitragsnummer" must register as described in chapter 5.

5. Registration as multi-person-household (paying flatmate)

You moved to Konstanz and moved into a shared flat ("WG") with flatmates and a flatmate is already paying the license fee for the household or you have collectively decided that a flatmate should take over the payment on behalf of the household?

Note:



The flatmate who is taking over the payments for the household must be registered with the Beitragsservice him-/herself and must have a "Beitragsnummer" to which you and the other flatmates can assign and register yourself to.

Note:



It is not possible to appoint a flatmate, who is exempted from paying the license fee or who has been granted a reduction of the license fee payment to take over the payments for the household.

If the flatmate who is appointed to take over the payments on behalf of the household doesn't have a "Beitragsnummer" yet, he/she can follow the registration procedures described in chapter 3.

Here are the possibilities to register with the Beitragsservice as multi-personhousehold with a flatmate's "Beitragsnummer".

5.1. If you haven't received a letter from Beitragsservice yet and don't have an "Aktenzeichen" (= file number)

If you haven't received a letter from the Beitragsservice yet, you must register with the Beitragsservice in the same way as for registering as one-person-household.

5.1.1. Register as one-person-household

Please follow the procedures described in chapter 3.2. to receive a registration confirmation by mail and with it a "Beitragsnummer".

5.1.2. De-register with license fee to join another household

Now please follow the procedures on how to de-register with the license fee to join another household as described in chapter 8.

5.2. <u>If you have received a letter from Beitragsservice and have an</u> "Aktenzeichen" (= file number)

With this first letter from the Beitragsservice one receives an "Aktenzeichen", which can be found in the header (10-digit number) and this means one is *not yet* registered with the contribution service.

5.2.1. Go to website indicated in the header of the letter

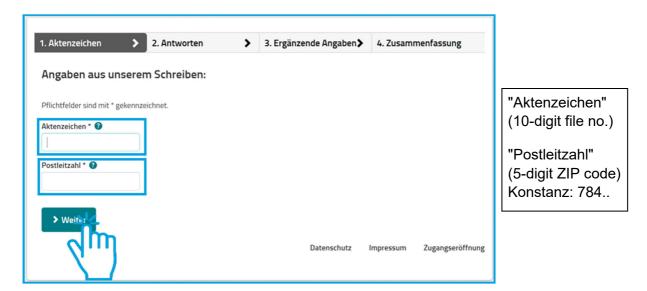


Go to website: https://antworten.rundfunkbeitrag.de/

5.2.2. Be prepared to enter "Aktenzeichen" (indicated in the header of the letter)



5.2.3. Enter "Aktenzeichen" and ZIP code into form and click "Weiter" (= next)



5.2.4. Select right answers to questions and click "Weiter" (= next)



- 1. Confirm with "Ja" if the address they chose to contact you is correct. Select "Nein" if it is wrong and correct the address accordingly.
- 2. Select your answer:
 - a. I register my apartment with the "Beitragsservice" as of my registration date with the municipal registration office ("Bürgerbüro")
 - b. I already have an account with the "Beitragsservice" for this apartment

c. My flatmate already pays the license fee for this apartment

3. Fill in the "Beitragsnummer" (= contribution number) of your flatmate who is taking over the payments for your household.

5.2.5. Optional: You can fill in your phone number and email address. Click "Weiter" (=next)

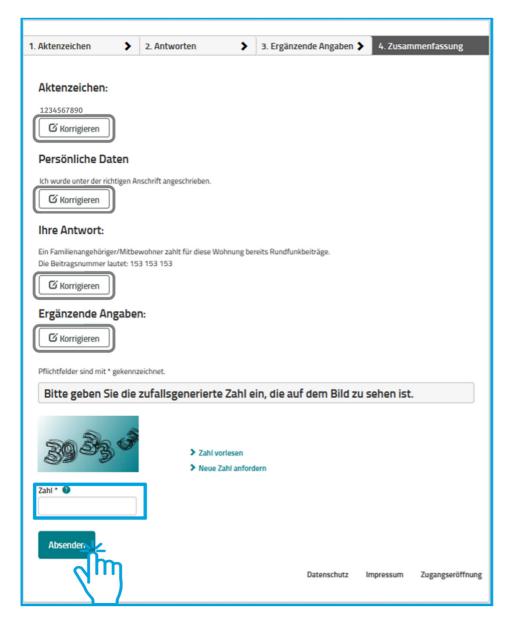


Note:



Whether or not you enter your phone number or email address, the Beitragsservice will neither call you nor send you an email but instead they will always write letters and send it to you by regular postal mail.

5.2.6. Check whether your personal data is correct in the summary and click "Absenden" (=send)



If not, correct by clicking on the respective button "Korrigieren" (= correct). Captcha: To complete the form, fill in the numbers you see in the field below. If you cannot read them, generate a new image by clicking on "Neue Zahl anfordern". Then click on "Absenden" (= send).

Note:



You will not receive a written confirmation from the Beitragsservice for successful assignment to a household.

6. How to change the payment rate and/or mode

Here is the description of the procedures for changing the payment rate and/or mode.

6.1. Go to website

Go to website:

https://www.rundfunkbeitrag.de/buergerinnen und buerger/formulare/aendern/index ger.html

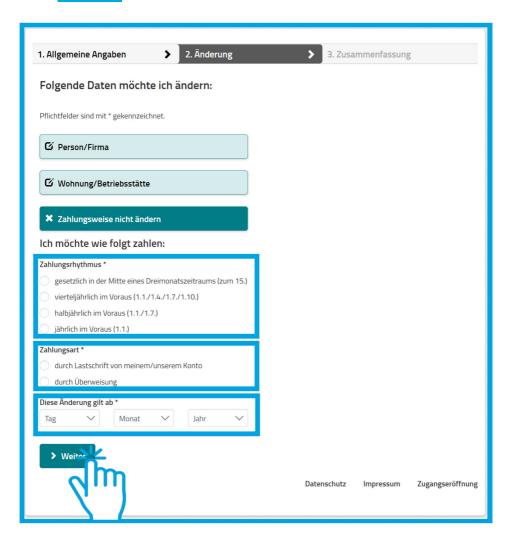
6.2. Fill in your personal data and click "Weiter" (=next)



6.3. Select "Zahlungsweise" (= payment method) and click "Weiter" (= next)



6.4. Fill in your preferred rate and mode of payment and click "Weiter" (= next)



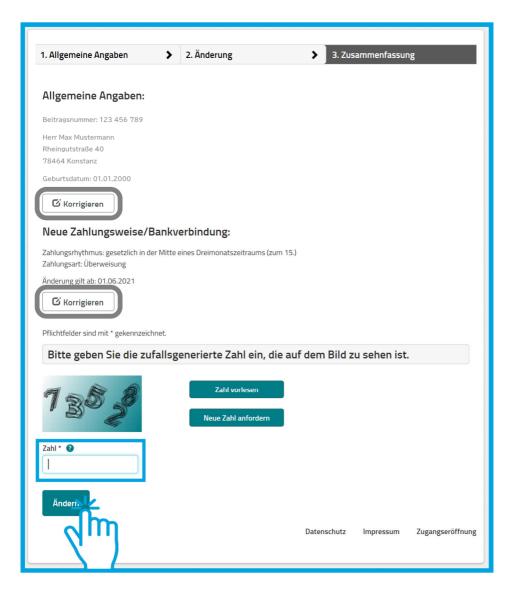
- 1. Rate of payment ("Zahlungsrhythmus"):
 - a In the middle of every 3 months (on the 15th) [=55.08 EUR]
 - b Quarterly in advance for every 3 months (1.1./1.4./1.7./1.10.) [=55.08 EUR]
 - c Every 6 months in advance (1.1./1.7.) [=110.16 EUR]
 - d Annually in advance (1.1.) [=220.32 EUR]
- Mode of payment ("Zahlungsart"):
 - a By direct debit mandate from your bank account
 - b By bank transfer
- 3. This change applies from ("Diese Änderung gilt ab") [Day/Month/Year]

Note:

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The payment mode by direct debit mandate requires you to have a checking/giro account that also uses the Euro currency in the <u>SEPA area</u> and you will need to submit your agreement to the <u>SEPA direct debit mandate</u> with your original signature by regular postal mail. (Not recommended for international exchange students)

6.5. Check whether your data is correct in the summary and click "Ändern" (= change)



If not, correct by clicking on the respective button "Korrigieren" (= correct). Captcha: To complete the form, fill in the numbers you see in the field below. If you cannot read them, generate a new image by clicking on "Neue Zahl anfordern". Then click on "Ändern" (= change).

7. How to change the address

Here is the description of the procedure for changing your address should you have moved within Germany.

Note:



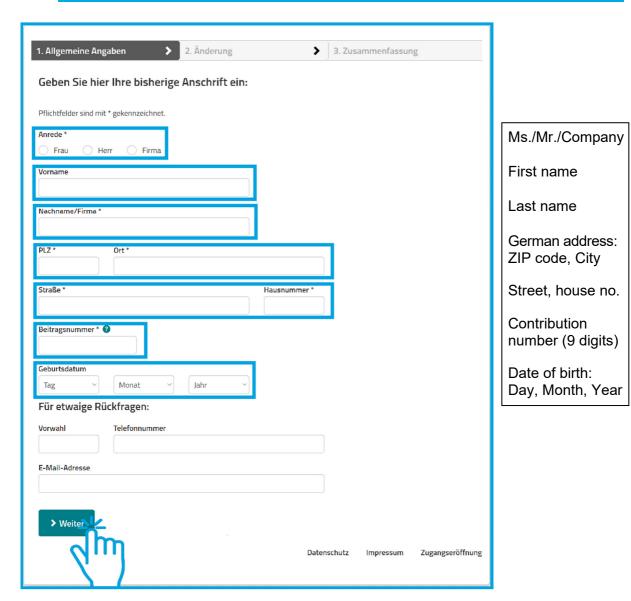
If you move within Germany, please do not forget to re-register ("ummelden") at the municipal registration office (Bürgerbüro) in your new place of residence.

7.1. Go to website

Go to website:

https://www.rundfunkbeitrag.de/buergerinnen und buerger/formulare/aendern/index ger.html

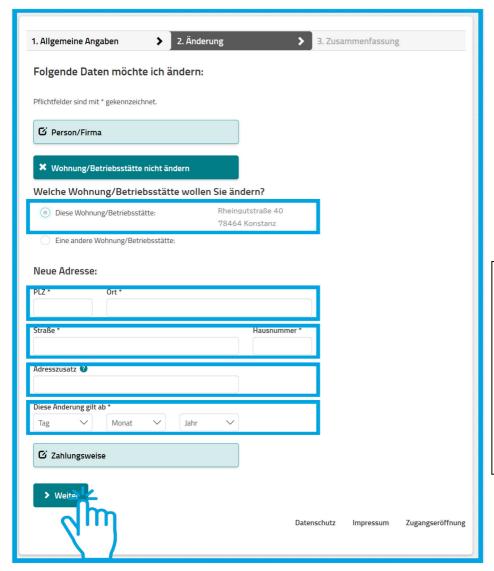
7.2. Fill in your personal data with old address and click "Weiter" (= next)



7.3. Select "Wohnung/Betriebsstätte" (= dwelling/place of business) and click "Weiter" (= next)

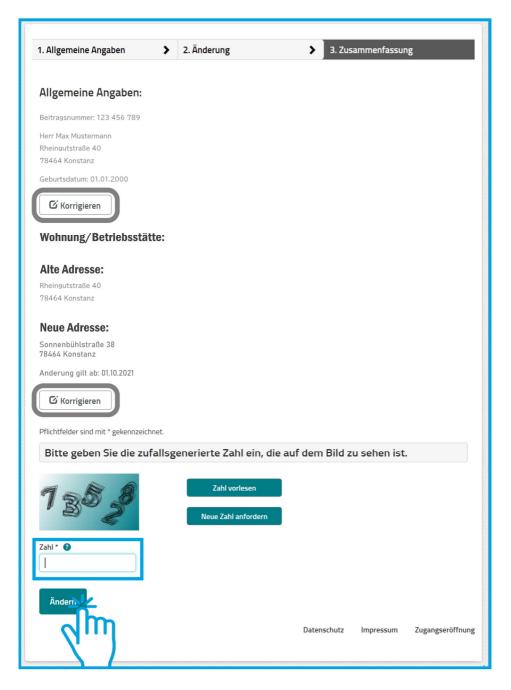


7.4. Select "Diese Wohnung/Betriebsstätte" (= this dwelling/place of business) fill in *new address* and click "Weiter" (= next)



New German address: ZIP code, City Street, house no. Address suffix (eg. c/o, WG no., room no., etc) Change applies from: Day, Month, Year

7.5. Check whether your data is correct in the summary and click "Ändern" (= change)



If not, correct by clicking on the respective button "Korrigieren" (= correct). Captcha: To complete the form, fill in the numbers you see in the field below. If you cannot read them, generate a new image by clicking on "Neue Zahl anfordern". Then click on "Ändern" (= change).

8. How to de-register from the license fee, to join another household with paying flatmate

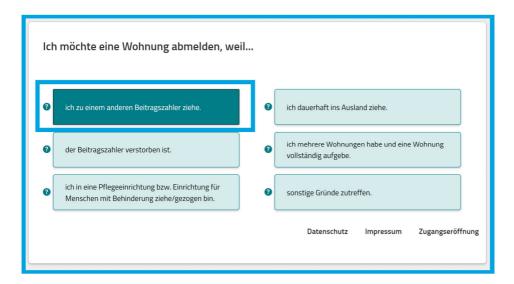
You are registered with the Beitragsservice, have a "Beitragsnummer" and either moved to a shared flat ("WG") with a flatmate who is paying or was appointed to pay the license fee on behalf of the household or someone else in your shared flat ("WG") is now taking over the payments for the household? Then here is the description on how to de-register with the Beitragsservice in order to join a household someone else is paying the license fee for.

8.1. Go to website

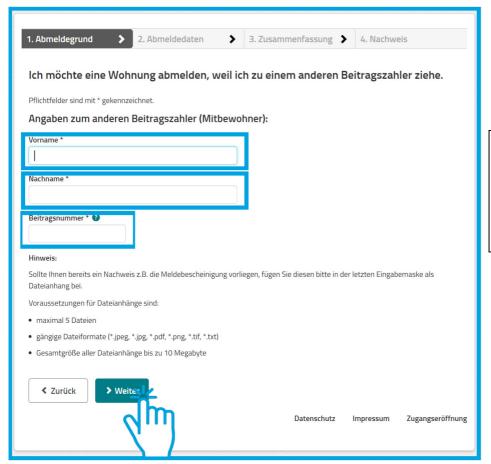
Go to website:

https://www.rundfunkbeitrag.de/buergerinnen und buerger/formulare/abmelden/index ger.html

8.2. Select the first button: "ich zu einem anderen Beitragszahler ziehe" (= I will move to a fee-paying member)



8.3. Fill in the first name and last name as well as the "Beitragsnummer" of your flatmate who is paying the license fee and click "Weiter" (= next)

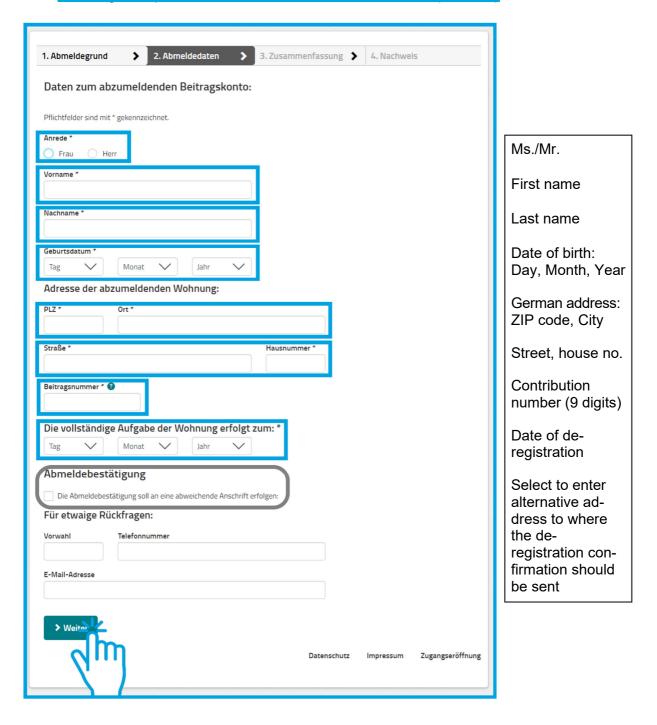


First name

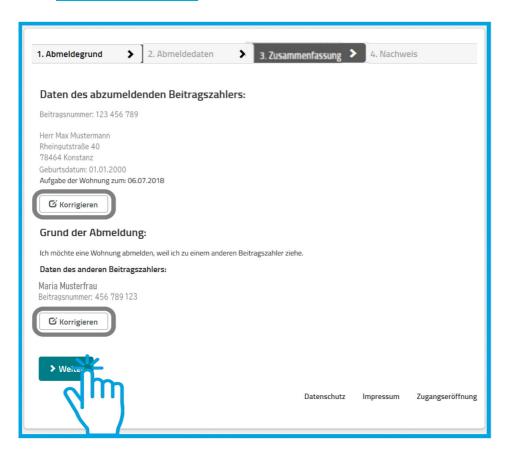
Last name

Contribution number (9 digits)

8.4. Fill in your personal data and click "Weiter" (= next)

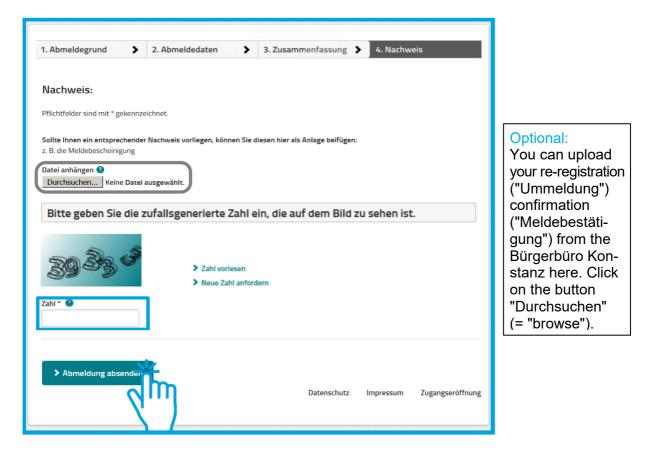


8.5. Check whether your data is correct in the summary and click "Weiter" (= next)



If not, correct by clicking on the respective button "Korrigieren" (= correct). Then click on "Weiter" (= next).

8.6. Click "Abmeldung absenden" (= submit de-registration)



Captcha: To complete the form, fill in the numbers you see in the field below. If you cannot read them, generate a new image by clicking on "Neue Zahl anfordern". Then click on "Abmeldung absenden" (= submit de-registration).

8.7. You should receive a de-registration confirmation by regular postal mail.

After some processing time you should receive the de-registration confirmation by mail from the Beitragsservice.

Note:

If the time span between your official move-in date to the residence and that of your paying roommate, to whose household you want to register with the contribution service exceeds a calendar month or more (if you moved in to the residence before your paying flatmate), then you will have to pay license fee for each commenced calendar month with your own "Beitragsnummer".

9. How to de-register from the license fee, when leaving Germany permanently

You know the date when you are leaving Germany permanently (or at least for the foreseeable future) and when you will be moving out of your dwelling? Then it is time to de-register from the license fee.

Note:



The de-registration from the license fee should be initiated several weeks before leaving Germany permanently as processing time takes very long. Make sure to pay the license fee for each commenced calendar month in advance and do not forget to indicate your Beitragsnummer in the reason of payment when transferring the fees (18.36 EUR/month).

Note:



According to the Federal Registration Act (BMG), you cannot de-register from the municipality (Bürgerbüro) before 7 days (*not* working days!) before your actual move-out date from the residence to receive the municipal de-registration confirmation ("Meldebestätigung").

9.1. Go to website

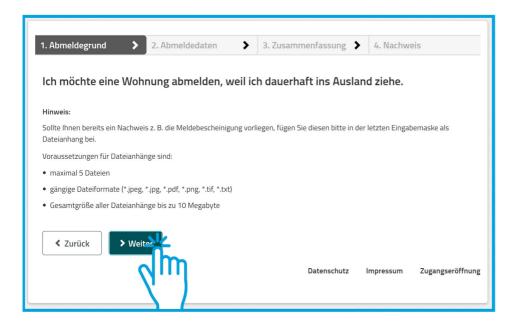
Go to website:

https://www.rundfunkbeitrag.de/buergerinnen und buerger/formulare/abmelden/index ger.html

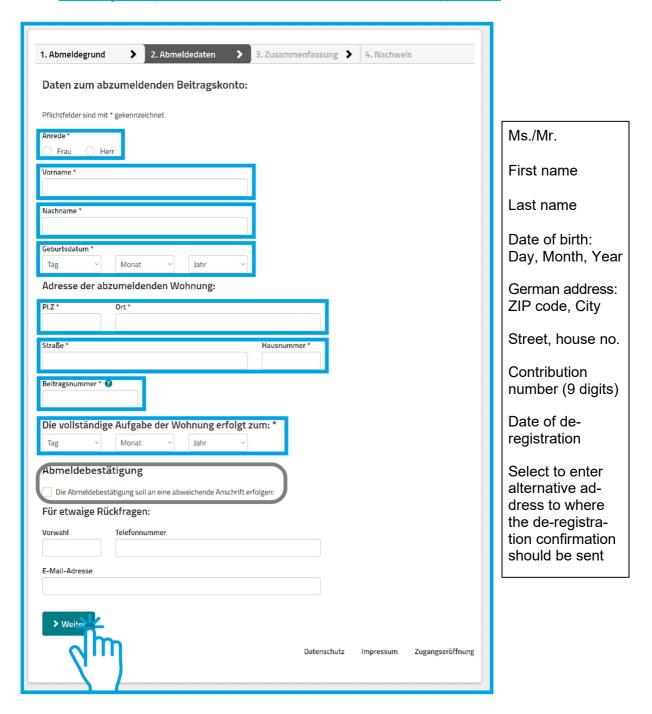
9.2. Select the second button: "ich dauerhaft ins Ausland ziehe" (= I will move abroad permanently)



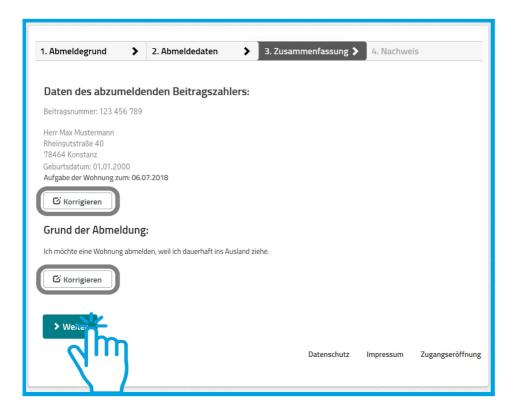
9.3. Just click "Weiter" (= next)



9.4. Fill in your personal data and click "Weiter" (= next)

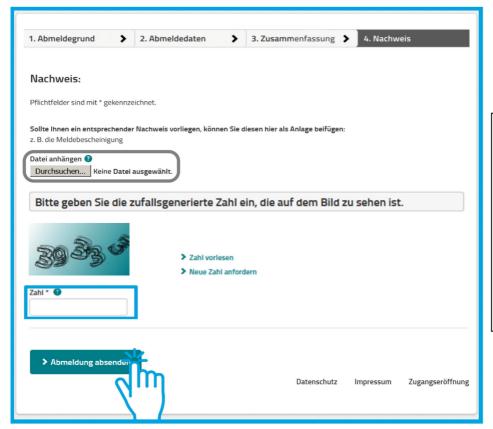


9.5. Check, whether your data is correct in the summary and click "Weiter" (= next)



If not, correct by clicking on the respective button "Korrigieren" (= correct). Then click on "Weiter" (= next).

9.6. Click "Abmeldung absenden" (= submit de-registration)



Optional:

You can upload your de-registration ("Abmeldung") confirmation ("Meldebestätigung") from the Bürgerbüro Konstanz here. Click on the button "Durchsuchen" (= "browse").

Captcha: To complete the form, fill in the numbers you see in the field below. If you cannot read them, generate a new image by clicking on "Neue Zahl anfordern". Then click on "Abmeldung absenden" (= submit de-registration).

Important:



Your de-registration from the license fee is only complete when also your municipal de-registration confirmation ("Meldebestätigung") from the Bürgerbüro was successfully submitted to the Beitragsservice!



If you lived in a multi-person household, the remaining flatmates will *all* have to register with the Beitragsservice individually and must then decide who of them will take over the payment for the license fee for the household in the future and de-register accordingly again to join the new household of the appointed flatmate.

9.6.1. If you subsequently received the municipal de-registration confirmation from the Bürgerbüro Konstanz and would like to submit it to Beitragsservice

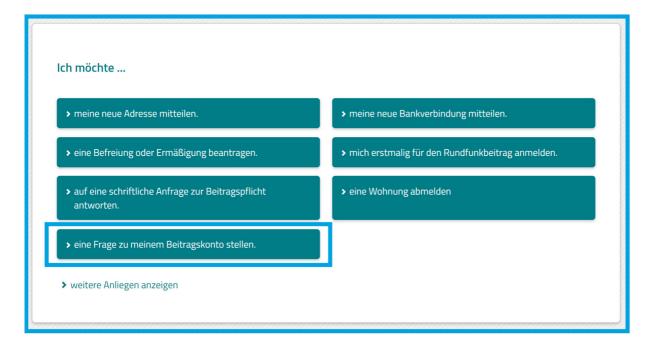
If you receive the de-registration confirmation from the Bürgerbüro Konstanz *after* having filled out and submitted the de-registration request for the license fee, then here is how you can subsequently submit the municipal de-registration confirmation ("Meldebestätigung") to the Beitragsservice to complete your de-registration with the Beitragsservice.

9.6.2. Go to the contact form website

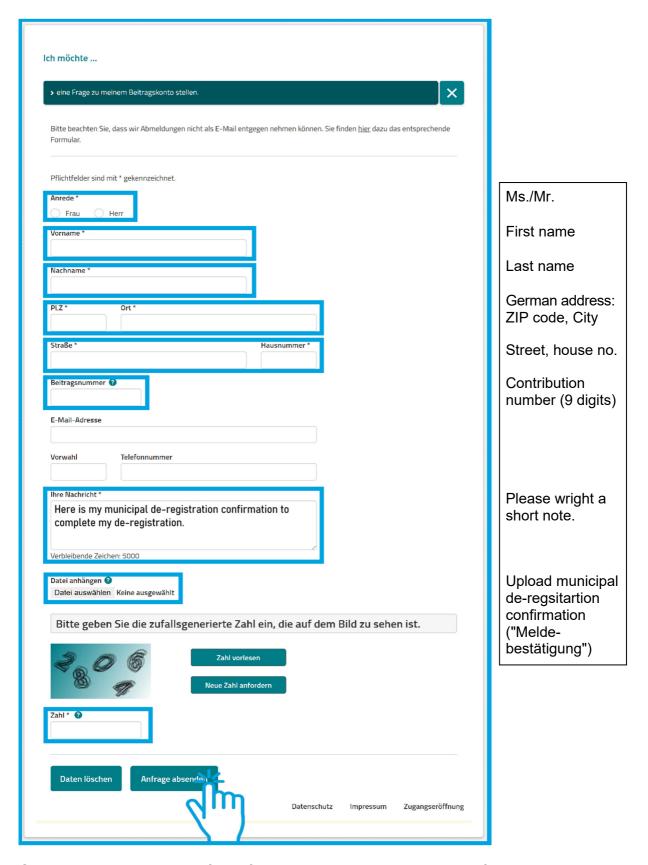
Go to website:

https://www.rundfunkbeitrag.de/buergerinnen und buerger/formulare/kontakt/index ger.html

9.6.3. Select "eine Frage zu meinem Beitragskonto stellen" (= ask a question regarding my contribution account)



9.6.4. Fill in your personal data and click "Anfrage absenden" (= send inquiry)



Captcha: To complete the form, fill in the numbers you see in the field below. If you cannot read them, generate a new image by clicking on "Neue Zahl anfordern". Then click on "Anfrage absenden" (= submit inquiry).

9.7. You should receive a de-registration confirmation by regular postal mail.

After some processing time you should receive the de-registration confirmation by mail from the Beitragsservice.