

# Domestic Services in the UK



**There are a range of Domestic Services you may want to consider as part of living in the UK, including TV licence, insurance, mobile phone and internet services.**

## TV Licence

The BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) is a public services broadcaster that is funded by an annual licence fee. This funding model means there are no adverts on any BBC radio or TV channels.

It is an offence to watch or record television programmes as they are being shown on any BBC channel and on any broadcast platform (terrestrial, satellite, cable and the internet) or download or watch programmes on demand, including catch up TV, on BBC iPlayer without a valid TV Licence.

The cost of a licence (as of April 1, 2021) is £159 a year (for a standard colour TV licence). You can pay for this in instalments or in one go on the [www.tvlicensing.co.uk](http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk) website. If you only watch non-BBC catch-up or non-BBC on-demand programmes you may not need a TV licence. Watching TV from sites such as Netflix (where programmes are not live), do not require a TV licence.

For more information, please visit the TV Licensing website.

## Internet

You may choose to arrange Wi-Fi in your accommodation. You will need a phone landline to do this, as well broadband service from a provider. Other options are to use your mobile phone (although this could be expensive) or use public Wi-Fi where available. Your landlord or accommodation office will be able to advise you.

Many public areas have Wi-Fi hotspots including supermarkets, coffee shops, most fast-food restaurants and some shops.

## Insurance

We recommend that you take out adequate travel insurance to cover the costs of your journey and possessions when travelling to the UK. When you arrive in the UK it is advisable to obtain contents insurance for your possessions. Most policies will cover items you leave in your accommodation as well as on your person (e.g. money or jewellery). There are plenty of comparison sites that can help you choose the right one e.g. [Compare the Market](#) or [Go Compare](#), however we recommend you shop around for a policy that provides the cover you need.

You will have access to [Health Service Discounts](#) when you take up your post; take a look on the website for discounted goods and services, including insurance. If you intend to buy and drive a car in the UK, it is a legal requirement to have it insured at all times.

## Mobile Phones

Following a change in EU roaming rules, which came into effect in June 2017, you'll now be able to 'roam like at home' while using your mobile phone when travelling within the EU. The new rules generally require providers to charge pay-monthly and pay-as-you-go mobile customers the same price for calls, text messages and data services as you pay when in the UK. However, there may be some instances (such as when a provider has a fair use policy in place) where you may be charged more than your domestic charge, so make sure you know what roaming product your mobile provider offers. When you first move to the UK, you may wish to purchase a new handset on pay-as-you-go. Shop around for the best deal that suitable for you. If your phone is compatible, you can purchase a SIM card at any supermarket or mobile phone shop.