



CELLPHONES & INTERNET

Cellphone companies offer many different options and plans for students. Most companies offer a pay-as-you-go option and an annual contract option. In British Columbia, there are a number of telecommunications companies to choose from.

Make sure you compare plans and find a plan that best meets all of your communication needs. You can compare major service providers online at [WirelessWave](#) or in person at large shopping centres. Research your options before making a decision.

[Bell](#)

[Fido](#)

[Koodo Mobile](#)

[Rogers](#)

[Telus Mobility](#)

[Virgin Mobile](#)

If you already have a mobile phone and you want to continue using it in Canada, ask one of these mobile phone service providers for advice. You can also ask other students from your home country if they have had success unlocking their mobile phones and using them in Canada.

Some things to consider when choosing a cellphone service provider and plan:

- How does the service provider define local and long-distance?
- What are the policies and fees for incoming and outgoing calls, including local and long-distance?
- What are the policies and fees for incoming and outgoing text messages, including local and long-distance?
- What are the policies and fees for internet access?
- What are the policies and fees for cancelling a plan?
- What are the policies and fees for upgrading, changing, or repairing your mobile phone?
- How frequently will you use your mobile phone for making and accepting calls?
- What days and times will you most often be making and accepting calls?
- Will you be making and accepting mostly local calls or long-distance calls?
- How frequently will you use your mobile phone for texting?
- How frequently will you use your mobile phone for accessing the internet?
- Do you want a plan with a contract, a plan with no contract, or prepaid service?
- How much money are you prepared to spend each month?

Advantages of a plan with a contract:

- Reduced price for a new mobile phone
- The cost per minute for calls and data is usually less expensive
- More feature options
- Family packages are often available at reduced prices

Disadvantages of a plan with a contract:

- Significant financial commitment
- You may not be able to upgrade or change your phone
- Expensive penalty for cancelling the plan

Information for minors:

In the province of British Columbia (BC), everyone under the age of 19 is considered a minor. Minors are not able to enter into a cellphone contract without a co-signer. A co-signer is an individual who is at least 19 years old and who is willing to sign a contract, on the minor's behalf, taking full legal responsibility for making sure bills are paid.

A contract with a minor and co-signer is similar to most contract situations. The main exception is that the primary user of the mobile phone is not legally responsible for paying the bills, and any resulting impact to credit score is attributed to the co-signer.

In the absence of a willing and eligible co-signer, the most common solution for minors is to choose prepaid service. Some of the major mobile phone service providers listed on the other side of this handout offer prepaid service.

Internet

If you live in UVic Residences or study on campus, you will have access to UVic's [wireless internet service](#). You will need a [UVic NetLink ID](#) to access the network.

If you live off-campus then you should consider getting your own internet service so you have the ability to study, stream, download, and connect with your friends and family at home. Some landlords include internet with your monthly rent or you may be able to split the cost of internet with your roommates.

Monthly internet costs range from approximately \$50 to \$100 per month, based on which internet package you purchase. Some companies offer promotions for students or have student "bundle" packages, which offer a discounted rate if you sign up for mobile, TV, and internet services together. Make sure the package you select offers a speed that is suitable for your needs. Typically, most people select an internet speed that is at least 50MBps - 100MBps. Most internet packages require you to sign a one-year contract, purchase a modem/wifi router, and pay an installation or initiation fee. Be sure to confirm all the fees, read the contract thoroughly before you sign, and do not hesitate to ask the internet provider if you have any questions.

Some internet service providers in Victoria include:

[Bell](#)

[Shaw](#)

[Telus](#)