



Computers & Internet Usage

- Most students bring their own laptops (or other devices) and will only need an Internet connection. Wireless Internet must be available for the student.
- Students who will be using the homestay family's computer will be **expected to share time with other family members**. Students will be expected to respect limits on computer use.
- Homestay families may **limit the amount of time students spend on the computer**, particularly if they are spending a lot of time online.
- We recommend the homestay family ask that students leave their cell phones and laptops out of their bedrooms overnight. Some families may choose to turn off their Internet.
- Students are asked to **consider the amount of time they spend online** with friends and family back home. Students are encouraged to interact with their homestay families and speak English as much as possible and focus on being in Canada. Weekends are a good time for talking to your family.
- If a student spends a lot of time downloading music, watching Netflix, or streaming videos, etc., then the bandwidth of the Internet connection can be affected. The quality of the video you watch can have a direct effect on the family's data usage. **The homestay family is not expected to purchase a higher speed Internet to accommodate the data usage of the student.**

Cell Phone Plans

Cell phones are a way of life for teenagers and most of them will arrive with a cell phone. Students are advised to be courteous when on their cell phone around the home by talking to others quietly, in a private area of the home, and not in front of any members of host family or guests. If the student would like to obtain a local cell phone during their stay, please assist with appropriate research. International students are allowed to purchase a cell phone plan. We recommend students purchase 'Prepaid' or 'Pay As You Go' plans.

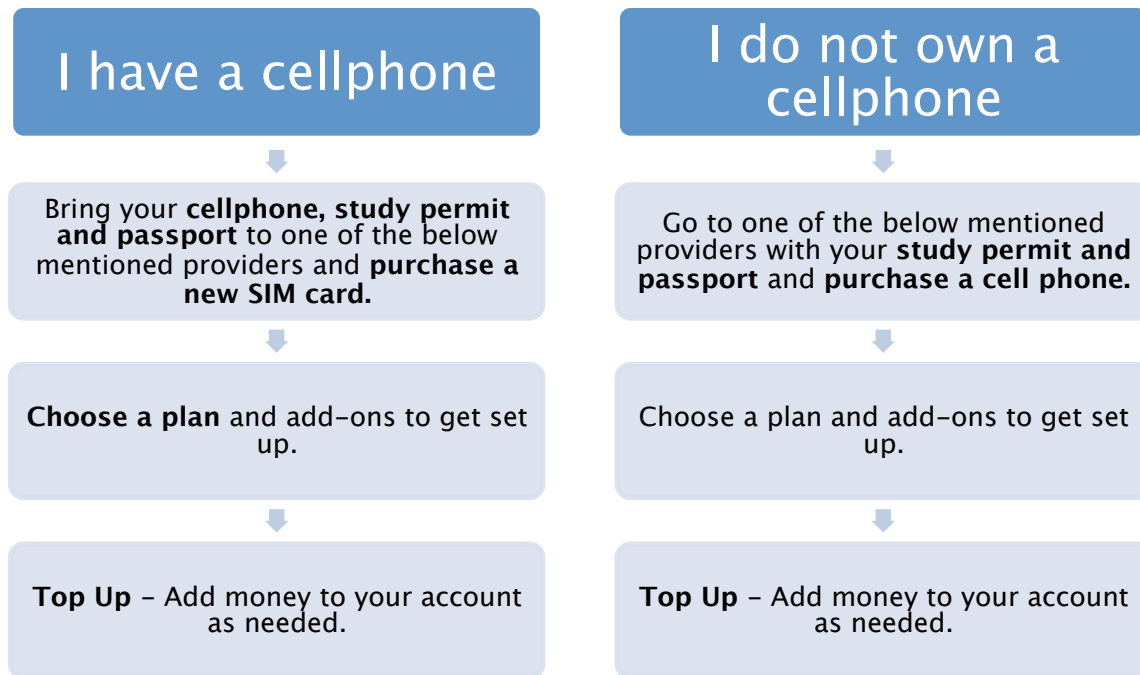


Homestay families are not allowed to sign any contracts on the student's behalf as all costs related to the phone are the student's responsibility. The ISP will not be responsible for lost phones or collecting money from students on cell phone bills, etc.

What is a pre-paid or 'Pay as You Go' plan?

A **prepaid mobile phone** (also commonly referred to as **pay-as-you-go, pay-as-you-talk, pay and go, prepaid wireless, or prepay**) is a mobile phone for which credit is purchased in advance of service use. The purchased credit is used to pay for mobile phone services at the point the service is accessed or consumed. If there is no available credit then access to the requested service is denied by the mobile phone network. Users are able to top up their credit at any time using a variety of payment mechanisms.

How do I set up my 'Pay As You Go' plan?



Is there a preferred provider? Past students have chosen 'Fido' because they have unlimited international texting. If you would like to shop-around you can visit the cell phone providers below. If you go to St. Vital Mall you can visit the stores for all cell phone providers. If you are at Costco you may also be able to look into 'Pay As You Go' plans.

Should I purchase a data plan? A data plan is only needed if a student does not have access to wireless Internet. All of our schools have wireless Internet, so a data is not needed while in school. Cell phones are only to be used as instructed by the teacher during class or on your spare time.



Phone Network Providers



http://www.rogers.com/web/Rogers.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=WRLS_PREPAID_LANDING



<http://www.fido.ca/web/page/portal/Fido/PrepaidPlans?forwardTo=prepaidPlans&service=rates>



<http://www.mts.ca/mts/personal/wireless/prepaid>



http://www.telus.com/en/mb/mobility/prepaid/?INTCMP=LNK_frmCTA_Top_Navigational_toPrepaid



<http://koodomobile.com/en/mb/plansandboosters.shtml>



<http://www.virginmobile.ca/en/plans/prepaid-talktext-plans.html?itcid=NAV:58>