

# Getting Sim Card & Choosing a Phone Plan

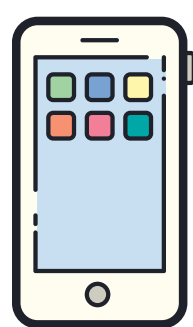
As an international student, having a phone plan is essential for your initial days in Canada. Telecom companies in Canada offer many plans and packages. When deciding on a plan, we encourage you to explore different options and determine what is best for your individual needs.

## The "3 major national mobile providers:

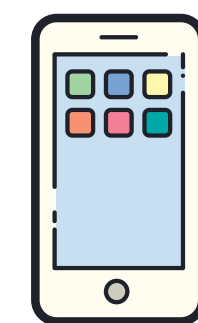
- Bell
- Rogers
- Telus

## Smaller mobile providers in Canada:

- Fido
- Public
- Koodo
- Chatr
- Freedom
- Virgin



## Things to consider while choosing a telecommunications provider.



### Coverage area

- "The Big Three" and their subsidiaries have the most wide-reaching network coverage across Canada.

### Prepaid (pay-as-you-go) vs. Postpaid

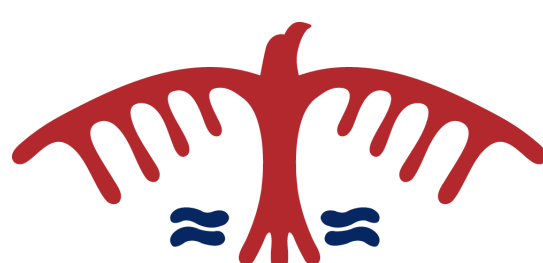
- Most mobile subscribers in Canada opt for a postpaid plan; plans and pricing are similar across the three big telecommunication companies. You can purchase a prepaid SIM card through the provider's website and have it mailed to your address.
- Make sure you purchase your SIM card online and a couple of days prior to departure. This way you will receive it in a timely manner upon arrival.
- Telecommunications companies that offer this service are
  - Freedom
  - Public
  - Koodo

### Purchase a phone from the telecom provider or Bring-Your-Own-Device (BYOD)

- It is common for Canadian telecom companies to offer deals on phones and phone plans (postpaid only).
- As part of these deals, you pay for the new phone with a fee that's added to your phone bill each month. However, with the option to BYOD, customers will only purchase the SIM from the provider; the phone is your own.
- Also make sure when bringing your own phone to use in Canada, ensure that it is unlocked and not restricted to a carrier in your home country.

### Data

- The Big Three are the only ones to offer plans with unlimited data and are known to be very expensive.
- These plans generally provide between 20 to 100 GB of high-speed data each month, and once that limit has been reached, you can still continue to use data, but at a slower speed.



Have Questions? Email us at: [student.life@algomau.ca](mailto:student.life@algomau.ca)