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STUDENTS WHO DO THEIR HOMEWORK CAN BAG THE BEST BROADBAND DEALS

Budgeting comes hand in hand with lectures and nightclubs for the average student - most must scrimp and save wherever they can. Fortunately, broadband providers are offering packages that are tailor-made for students' specific requirements, with low prices price tags and alluring perks and freebies. Student-friendly deals currently available include:

- **Special student deals with competitive monthly prices to meet tight budgets**
- **Short or no contract options give students more freedom**
- **Unlimited usage provides plentiful gaming, films and music downloads**
- **Freebies to sweeten the deal such as HMV vouchers or a Sony iPod/iPhone docking system worth £80 – a welcome addition to any student household.**

Broadband is an indispensable tool for student homes. It is used for research and entertainment, as well as being an affordable and convenient way to keep in contact with friends and family. But, with multiple people sharing a house and the need for speed, it's not just about finding the cheapest deal.

Independent price comparison service, uSwitch.com, provides hints, tips and advice to help students make the right choice. Things that cash-savvy students should look for when choosing a broadband package are:

Speed and usage allowance: It is not uncommon for student households to have as many as ten people under one roof, so a high file transfer speed is a must-have to avoid unnecessary quarrels around deadlines and exams. Discuss your usage allowance with your housemates if downloading films and music or playing games is high on your list of priorities.

If this is the case, signing up for unlimited broadband should be essential to your decision. Virgin Media and Orange both offer highly attractive tailor-made packages for students, offering unlimited downloads.

Tie-ins: Contract length is an extremely important factor to consider, particularly due to the nomadic lifestyle of the student who spends long periods of time away from their university home. Luckily, short or no-contract broadband packages are becoming increasingly available, offering significantly more freedom. For a one-off £25 activation fee, Plusnet gives students the option of ending their contract with just ten days' notice. However, the catch is that the wireless router comes at a cost of £40. BE's liberating three month package is also worthy of consideration for £25 a month. While these packages are great if you want to avoid getting tied down, it's important to be wary of the often steep upfront costs.

Broadband on the move: Whether it's an important email to a lecturer or an urgent need to 'un-tag' a humiliating photo on Facebook, mobile broadband could be the answer for students needing to get connected on the move. Simply plugging a dongle into any laptop USB port gives students the freedom to use the internet wherever they find themselves. Three is currently offering the most competitive mobile broadband deal with a free £10 HMV voucher, specifically with the student market in mind. It comes with a catch though – a lengthy 24-month contract – and for £15.99 a month students will certainly be paying for their freedom.

Ernest Doku, technology expert at [uSwitch.com](http://uswitch.com), says: “Trying to meet the needs of everyone in a student household can often be challenging and time consuming, not to mention expensive. Luckily, suppliers are becoming increasingly aware of the specific needs of students, with low monthly costs, short contracts and freebies thrown in.

“The new tailor-made packages from the likes of Virgin Media and Orange should free up students' schedules and give them more time to enjoy the Freshers' festivities. Those who do their homework can score top marks on their broadband before the new academic year begins.”

To see more student broadband deals visit
http://www.uswitch.com/broadband/compare/student_broadband or call 0800 093 0607

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Notes to editors:

Provider	Package	Contract length	Line rental	Speed	Downloads	Activation fee	Wireless router	Perks/Freebies	Initial Cost	Ongoing Monthly Cost (after discount)
Virgin	Student exclusive Broadband L	9 months	Inclusive	10MB	Unlimited	Free online (saving of £20)	Free	15% off Virgin mobile rates	£27.40	£27.40
Orange	Student Exclusive	18 months	£11.50	20MB	unlimited	FREE	FREE	Sony iPod/iPhone speaker docking station worth £80. 2 for 1 Pizza Express and cinema tickets every Wednesday Free weekly iTunes film download with Orange Film To Go	£11.50	£19.00
Three	Mobile Broadband Max - USB stick	24 months	N/A	21MB	15GB	N/A	N/A	£10 HMV voucher	£16	£16
Plusnet	Value	N/A	£11.99	20MB	10GB	£25	£40	N/A	£83.48	£18.48
Be	Unlimited	3 months	£10.00	24MB	Unlimited	£25	Free	N/A	£60	£35

Source uSwitch.com

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uSwitch.com is the first comparison website to achieve the Plain English Campaign's Internet Crystal Mark, which is recognised as a standard that a website has clear language, is accessible and easy to use, and has been tested on a sample of its users.

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