

Cell Phone Plans for Exchange Student Intermediate

Michel is an exchange student from Germany. He will be staying with a family in Minnesota for the school year. He has decided that he would like a cell phone for the year so that he can stay in touch with his host family and new friends.

He has found several providers that offer an adequate coverage area. He has also decided that the type of phone is not an issue as he does not want anything fancy – and would be satisfied with the low end phones which often are offered free of charge. All of the providers he is considering offer adequate coverage and low end free of charge phones.

Michel is worried about having to commit to a long-term contract since he will only be in the country for ten months. He has estimated that he will use approximately 500 minutes during the weekdays plus many more in the evenings and on weekends each month. He has also estimated that he will send and receive over 1000 text messages each month.

Cost is a factor for Michel since he is on a budget while on this exchange program.

Which cell phone plan would best meet his needs?

Criteria:

- Contract
- Minutes
- Texting
- Cost



Cell Phone Plans for Exchange Student Senior

Michel is an exchange student from Germany. He will be staying with a family in Minnesota for the school year. He has decided that he would like a cell phone for the year so that he can stay in touch with his host family and new friends.

He has found several providers that offer an adequate coverage area. He has also decided that the type of phone is not an issue as he does not want anything fancy – and would be satisfied with the low end phones which often are offered free of charge. All of the providers he is considering offer adequate coverage and low end free of charge phones.

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Cost is a factor for Michel since he is on a budget while on this exchange program.

Which cell phone plan would best meet his needs?



#1 Alltel – National Freedom Plan

- 750 minutes - \$49.99
- Additional minutes - 40¢

- 5 My Circle numbers – plus, change Your Circle numbers anytime (free calls to & from these 5 numbers)
- Unlimited Mobile-to-Mobile Minutes with other Alltel customers
- Unlimited Nights and Weekends (nights – 9:00 pm – 6:00 am; weekends – Saturday 12:00 am – 12:59 pm Sunday)
- Free nationwide long distance
- Basic Voice Mail
- Caller ID
- 3-Way Calling
- No Answer Transfer
- Call Forwarding
- Call Waiting
- Pay-Per-Use Text Messaging

Text messaging options:

- **All Access Pass** - \$19.99/mo. Unlimited messages and Alltel web
- **My Circle Message Pack 1000** - \$12.99/month; 1000 text, picture, video, unlimited Mobile-to-Mobile and My Circle Messaging
- **My Circle Message Pack 400** - \$7.99/month; 400 text, picture, video, unlimited Mobile-to-Mobile and My Circle Messaging


Contract – 2 year contract required

Early Termination Fee: \$200 early termination fee per line



#2

Verizon Wireless Nationwide Basic

- Activation fee: \$35
 - Basic Plans:
 - 450 Anytime minutes - \$39.99/month + 45¢ /minute after allowance
 - 900 Anytime minutes - \$59.99/month + 40¢/minute after allowance
 - Unlimited Night & Weekend Minutes
 - Night Hrs: (M–F) 9:01 p.m.–5:59 a.m.
 - Wknd Hrs: 12:00 a.m. Sat.–11:59 p.m. Sun.
 - Unlimited National  Calling to any Verizon Wireless Customer
 - No Domestic Long Distance Charges
 - 3-Way Calling
 - Voice Mail
 - Caller ID
-
- Text messaging –
 - 20¢ per text; packages available
 - 5000 messages - \$20/month
 - 2500 messages - \$15/month
 - 500 messages - \$10/month
 - 250 messages - \$5/month
-
- Contract - One– or two–year minimum contract term required per line
 - Early Termination Fee: Up to \$175 per line.



#3

Alltel Prepaid – Pay-as-you-go Plan

Monthly charge - \$69.99
Anytime minutes – 700
Nights & weekends – unlimited
Mobile to mobile – unlimited
Picture Messaging - 25¢ per message sent/received
Nationwide Roaming - add 59¢ per minute

Keeping your service active - Replenish your account every 31 days. Remember to add enough money to cover your rate plan fee and any additional services you may want to use.

Text messaging – unlimited
Additional minutes - 10¢ per minute

Contract required – None – pay as you go each month



#4

Virgin Mobile Pre-paid Monthly Plans

- \$59.99 Pre-paid monthly plan offers:
 - 600 anytime minutes
 - Unlimited 7 pm nights & weekends
- No Activation Fees
- No Roaming or Long-Distance Charges
- Pay with Cash, Credit, or Debit. Change Plans as Your Needs Change

- Texting options:
 - \$5/month = 1000 messages
 - \$10/month = unlimited messages

- No contract needed
- No termination fee



Cell Phone Plans for Exchange Student

Placing: 3-4-2-1

Cuts: 1 – 4 – 2

At the top of the class I place #3, the Alltel Pre-paid cell phone plan. Although its plan price is in the middle of the range available, it has no contract fees, unlimited text messages and offers 200 more minutes than the minimum that Michael desired.

In a very close top pair, I place #3 over #4. Although both plans have no contract fees and cost the same for unlimited text messaging, #3 includes an additional 100 minutes. I grant that #4 would cost \$5 less if Michael chose the 1000 messages per month plan option.

In the middle pair, I place #4 over #2. Plan #4 has no contract fees and unlimited text messages while being \$5 cheaper than plan #2. I grant the plan #2 offers the most weekday minutes at 900 minutes, but fault it for its required 1-2 year contract requirement with termination fees and its overall higher cost.

In the bottom pair, I place #2 over #1. Plan #2 includes more weekday minutes at 900, more text messages at 2500, and has more flexibility in the contract fee and termination fees. I grant the #1 plan costs less.

In the bottom of this class I place #1. I grant that #1 includes the minimum number of text messages at 1000, includes more than the minimum required weekday minutes at 750 minutes and is the cheapest cell phone plan being considered, but fault it for the required 2 year contract and \$200 termination fee.

Cell Phone
Plans
Official
Placement:
3-4-2-1
Cuts:1,4,2

1-2-3-4 - 26
1-2-4-3 - 25
1-3-2-4 - 31
1-3-4-2 - 35
1-4-2-3 - 29
1-4-3-2 - 34
2-1-3-4 - 28
2-1-4-3 - 27
2-3-1-4 - 35
2-3-4-1 - 41
2-4-1-3 - 33
2-4-3-1 - 40
3-1-2-4 - 38
3-1-4-2 - 42
3-2-1-4 - 40
3-2-4-1 - 46
3-4-1-2 - 48
3-4-2-1 - 50
4-1-2-3 - 35
4-1-3-2 - 40
4-2-1-3 - 37
4-2-3-1 - 44
4-3-1-2 - 47
4-3-2-1 - 49

For these reasons, I place this class of cell phone plans 3 – 4 – 2 – 1.