How to find an Internet Provider

There are a number of different courses at CCI with different modes of study, obviously students studying on fully online courses will need a reliable internet connection, however since the pandemic video calling has become a part of every course as it allows students to attend tutorials and access technical support from home.

As a general guide you should anticipate at least 6 Mbps download per person and 2 Mbps upload internet.

So if you live in a house with 4 other people (5 total) then you should be looking to have at least 30Mbps download and 10Mbps upload for a reliable experience.

You should avoid using mobile data (4G/5G) data plans where possible as they're susceptable to massive variation network congstion which can affect your ability to take part in classes (even now with 5G).

As a general rule from our experience, you should start your search in this order:

1. FTTH (Fibre to the Home) / FTTP (Fibre to the Premises) / FTTB (Fibre to the Building)

- [Hyperoptic](#)
- [Community Fibre](#)
- [G.Network](#)
- [openreach](#)

FTTH/FTTP/FTTB providers are by far the best option for home broadband provision. They often offer upwards of 3Gbps for prices that aren't that different from the second and third options on our list. This means you could aim for a much cheaper 150Mbps package for about £25 a month on a 12-month contract.

What's more, most providers of "true" or "full" fibre are symmetrical services, which means about 150Mbps download and upload, as compared to pretty much all the others on this list, where the upload speeds tend to be somewhere between 1/10th and 1/3rd the download speed at best.

As Openreach retires the legacy copper phone network, they're putting Fibre into every home in the country; this could be in addition to fibre-only providers like Hyperoptic, Community Fibre, and G.Network.

You can get Openreach services through almost any Broadband provider, but what counts is that your line has been converted to Openreach Full Fibre. [they have a checker on their website.](#)

> A lot of these companies are open to haggling if you want to get the same price, but without the 12-month contract, you might be able to get a rolling monthly plan.

2. Cable (DOCSIS 3)

- [Virgin Media](#)

Virgin Media is the only cable provider in London, and in most of the UK, they offer DOCSIS 3.1 internet connectivity, which can be very fast. However, the cost of Virgin Media broadband, when compared to the above FTTH providers, can be pretty high. There are parts of London where large numbers of customers put strain on the network, and it can be very slow at peak times.

3. Copper Phone Line / FTTC (Fibre to the Cabinet) providers

VDSL and ADSL are the conventional ways that broadband has been rolled out in the UK since its inception. However, running over decades-old copper phone lines and in some highly congested parts of London, conventional copper telephone lines aren't going to offer you either the best value for money or the best performance, but they are preferable to a mobile data plan.

Open Reach, who manage the wired phone infrastructure in the UK, is retiring the copper phone line system for what they call Full Fibre, which is FTTH. [you can check availability here.](#)

4. MNO (Mobile Network Operator) Mobile Data (4G/5G)

- EE
- Vodafone
- O2
- Three

These are the only 4 companies in the UK that operate consumer mobile data and phone networks, with EE, Vodafone and O2 tending to be the best (but more expensive) options in London.

> Three's unlimited data plans for a low cost means they're very popular, but they tend to have pretty slow service across the more densely packed parts of London.

5. MVNO (Movile Virtual Network Operator) Mobile Data (4G/5G)

- GiffGaff
- Smarty
- VOXI
- Tesco
- ASDA

> We don't recommend using MVNO-type broadband as your primary internet provider.

These and other brands of MVNOs are often cheaper because they have a kind of second-class citizen status on the network they operate over. This can make 4G/5G even less reliable, and we wouldn't recommend any of these as your primary internet provider.

Revision #5
Created 2 May 2023 17:23:50 by Tom Lynch
Updated 29 April 2024 22:21:41 by Tom Lynch