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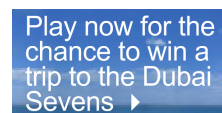
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Students going to university uninsured, claim Abbey

2nd October 2007

Sharon Flaherty

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Thirty per cent of students starting university this year are likely to do so without any insurance, Abbey Home Insurance has warned.

The insurer has estimated that as many as 330,000 students will start or have already started university this year without insuring their belongings.

Of these, the insurer said that around 154,000 (14 per cent) have not considered insurance or do not believe their belongings are valuable enough to justify purchasing it while 77,000 (7 per cent) claim they could not afford insurance and a further 99,000 (9 per cent) said they considered insurance but did not get around to getting it.

Despite being uninsured, students will take with them on average £3,300 worth of belongings to university this year with one in 10 taking belongings worth more than £5,000.

Prasad Shastri, head of insurance marketing at Abbey said, "Even though finances can be tight while at university, with a potential

total value of belongings in excess of £3,000 students should not be viewing insurance as an optional extra but a necessity."

According to the research, the most common item students bring to student lodgings is a computer with 95 per cent of students owning one. Sixty-one per cent also bring TVs.

"For the one in five students (19 per cent) who are hoping to rely on their parents policy for protection, we would also advise that they double-check this as they may not actually be covered," she added.

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