



# Cell Phones & Our Policy

## Useful Apps

for international communication



### Viber

Users can call and text over Wifi for free.



### WhatsApp

This offers the same capabilities as Viber – free calls and texting over Wifi.



### Skype

Free video chat! You can also purchase Skype credit that will allow you to call landlines/cell phones worldwide.

CEA requires that each student has a working phone number with local or international service, which the student can provide to onsite staff for emergency contact purposes. Students should provide this phone number to staff **within 5 days of the program start date**. Students may choose to secure a cell phone prior to departure or once they arrive at their study abroad destination.

If you do not have a phone or fail to provide CEA with your contact information while abroad, CEA may have difficulty reaching you in case of an emergency.

## Cell Phone Options

### Option 1 – Use your current cell phone with a foreign SIM card.

- Ask your service provider if your phone can be used abroad. If it can be, request that your phone be unlocked for overseas use. **You must complete this step before you travel.**
- You can get a pre-paid SIM card when you arrive onsite and purchase additional credit for the card as needed. This is a good way to keep track of your phone usage and an affordable way to communicate.
- Keep in mind that foreign data plans may be different than U.S. plans. The average SIM card data plan gives you access to email, the Internet, apps, and more.

### Option 2 – Obtain a pay-as-you-go phone upon arriving Onsite.

- Pay-as-you-go phones are affordable and widely used abroad. They can be purchased in many stores.
- Similar to option 1, you'll purchase credit and must "add credit" when you run out.

### Option 3 – Use your own phone.

- This is convenient but can be very expensive!
- Some cell phone companies offer international plans, but we strongly recommend researching all options before committing.

**Please note:** CEA does not recommend relying on Wifi spots for communication because they are not dependable. Doing so could make it difficult for CEA staff to reach you in the case of an emergency.

