



Cell Phone Options for International Students

To avoid expensive roaming fees, it is a good idea to purchase a U.S. based cell-phone plan upon arrival in the U.S.

You have three choices for cell phone plans:

1. Using an unlocked cell phone from home and purchasing a new SIM card in the U.S.
2. Buying a new phone and setting up a pre-paid plan to pay as you go
3. Buying a new cell phone and setting up a contract plan to pay monthly

Option 1: Using an unlocked cell phone from home and purchasing a new SIM card in the U.S.

It's important to note that most international phones are locked in the U.S., which eliminates the option. If you have an unlocked phone, campusSIMS is a great option for purchasing a new SIM card. The Office of International Services has a supply of campusSIMS cards that you can set up via a downloaded app or online.

Option 2: Buying a new phone and setting up a pre-paid plan to pay as you go

Pre-paid plan is a more expensive option in terms of overall value but can be good if you are in the U.S. for a limited time or do not expect to use your phone much. You purchase the phone, which is usually rather expensive (at least \$50-60 for the simplest models), then purchase minutes, which are often sold to you at a premium price. You must buy more minutes every time you use them up. It does not require a contract.

Option 3: Buying a new cell phone and setting up a contract plan to pay monthly

Contract phones require that you buy a phone from the specific company. You must also sign an agreement for a one or two-year plan. This will mean that once every month you will receive a bill for the use of the service. Contract plans generally require either a Social Security number or a credit check, which most international students cannot provide. T-Mobile is one carrier that does **not** require a contract, nor deposits or a credit check to set up a contract, which makes it a great option for international students.

Phone stores near Lasell College

AT&T 88 Needham St. Newton, MA 02461 https://www.att.com (617) 965-8181	T-Mobile 348 Moody St. Waltham, MA 02453 https://www.t-mobile.com (781) 647-0952	Boost Mobile 485 Moody St. Waltham, MA 02453 https://www.boostmobile.com/ (781) 893-0900	Sprint Store 110 River St. Waltham, MA 02453 https://www.sprint.com (781) 996-7070
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How can I call overseas?

The cheapest and easiest way to call overseas are mobile and desktop messaging apps like [WhatsApp](#), [Viber](#), [Skype](#) or [WeChat](#). Any of these options can be downloaded for free and used within the U.S.