

Making International Phone Calls

Save money while making calls to or from abroad with these useful services.



Mobile Phones and Devices

Your mobile phone or device may not work abroad, so contact your current provider to learn where your device will work. You also may rent or buy an international cell phone or a prepaid SIM card abroad. You can find international country codes at countrycode.org. For discounted phone services, visit the PicCell Wireless website at www.piccellwireless.com/k-state.



Skype

Skype is a great way to communicate cheaply. Calling from one internet-enabled device to another is free if you have wifi, and rates for calling a U.S. telephone from another device are relatively cheap. You may also use Skype for sending instant messages and chatting with friends or family. Visit www.skype.com to download the application to your device for free.



WhatsApp

WhatsApp Messenger is a popular cross-platform mobile messaging app which allows you to exchange messages for free without having to pay for SMS. WhatsApp Messenger is available for iPhone, BlackBerry, Android, Windows Phone and Nokia. Visit www.whatsapp.com/ to download the application to your device for free.



Internet Cafes and WiFi Hotspots

Internet cafes and WiFi hotspots are widely available abroad and offer access to the Internet, e-mail, and messaging services, often for a fee. Cafes may have booths where you may make domestic and international calls. Although convenient, cafes and hotspots may be expensive when used for a length of time. Visit www.cybercafes.com or www.wifi.com to search for access.

My VOIP Provider

MyVOIPProvider.com is a large computer-to-phone VOIP (voice over internet provider) service search engine that will allow you to find, compare, and rank a company's calling rates for the destination(s) you wish to call. As many VOIP companies exist, this website may help you get the best price for your needs.



Phone Cards

You may purchase phone cards in most general stores, in airports, or on the Internet. These cards are often customized for the destination you wish to call, and therefore may be cheaper than other services. Phone cards are especially useful when you can't find a readily available internet connection. Visit www.phonecards.com to compare rates for different companies and locations.



Although it's comforting to communicate with your friends and family from abroad, constant calls home may worsen your culture shock. Stay in touch, but make the best use of your time abroad!