

U.S. CELL PHONE INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

In the Boston metro area, there are numerous wireless carriers to choose from. The three most popular wireless carriers are *Verizon Wireless*, *AT&T*, and *Sprint*. All three companies have excellent coverage in Medford and Boston proper, the United States, and if your plan allows, international coverage. Wireless plans in the United States are very different from plans outside the United States, so make sure you carefully read everything before you sign; in particular, **please be certain to ask specifically about international calling rates, messaging plans, 3G network fees and capabilities (if applicable), contract agreements, and overage charges.**

To get a phone and plan, there are two main options: 1) a **two-year contract** or 2) a **pay-as-you-go plan**. Contract plans are the most common plans in the United States. **Contract plans** require a two-year commitment as well as a U.S. Social Security Number (SSN) for identity and credit check purposes. Please note that in order to obtain a SSN, you must have an on-campus job and have a registered for Tufts courses; from there, it can take up to three weeks to receive a social security card. A large deposit (\$150 -\$500) is required in lieu of a SSN, but generally speaking, carriers will refund your initial deposit after twelve months of good standing. Please note that breaking the contract will result in heavy penalty fees.

The second popular option is the **pay-as-you-go plan**. While these plans may have slightly higher rates on outgoing calls, messaging, etc., they are nonetheless convenient for international students; prepaid plans offer the same services and network capabilities as contract plans, but do not require a SSN or a hefty deposit.

In addition, many international students join together to create a **family plan**. These wireless service plans allow up to five lines to be on the same contract. Keep in mind that it is difficult to add/drop lines once the contract is signed *without* paying fines or penalty fees. Family plans are inexpensive if you know multiple individuals signing up for a contract plan.

Verizon Wireless

Verizon prepaid plan information:

<http://www.verizonwireless.com/b2c/splash/prepay.jsp>

*A \$400 deposit is required for a contract plan for individuals without a SSN but will be refunded after 12 months of good standing. You do not need a SSN for prepaid plans.

Cambridge- Harvard Square- 3 miles from Tufts (T- Redline, Harvard Sq.)
95 Mount Auburn St
Harvard Square | (617) 441-6790

AT&T

AT&T prepaid plan information:

<http://www.wireless.att.com/cell-phone-service/go-phones/index.jsp?wtSlotClick=1-00107M-0-1&WT.svl=graphic>

*A \$500 deposit is required for a contract plan without a SSN but will be refunded after 12 months of good standing. You do not need a SSN for pay as you go plans.

Cambridge Side Galleria- 4.0 mi. from Tufts (T-Redline, Kendall Sq., free shuttle from Kendall to Cambridge Side; T-Green line, Lechmere; Bus 80 to Lechmere)
100 Cambridge Side | (617) 225-3935

Sprint

<http://www.sprint.com/index.html>

*For contract plans, Sprint requests two forms of identification plus a \$100 deposit for individuals without a SSN; the initial deposit will be refunded after 11 months of good standing. Prepaid plans do not need a SSN.

Cambridge- Cambridge Side Galleria- 4.0 mi. from Tufts (T-Redline, Kendall Sq., free shuttle from Kendall to Cambridge Side; T-Green line, Lechmere; Bus 80 to Lechmere)
100 Cambridge Side | (617) 621-0964

metroPCS

metroPCS is another option for international students and scholars who are staying less than a year in the U.S. This wireless carrier does not require a contract or SSN to get a phone and service plan. The plans are month to month. Service is only available in major US cities.

Mesh. Co.- Davis Sq.
20 Holland St.
DF Wireless | 13 Union Sq. | Bus 87 (617) 440-5099