General Education Abroad
Practicum in Spain
Communication to and from Spain

**Contacting you in Spain:**
Tell your family about Pennytalk.com: [http://www.pennytalk.com/](http://www.pennytalk.com/)
This is a very economical way for people to call FROM the US to Spain for only 2 cents per minute (to call a land line) or 29 cents per minute (to call a cellphone).

Then please remember to complete the contact info sheet you will receive with your homestay info and send it or give it to your family so that they know how to contact you in case of an emergency. They should only use the institute or school numbers in case of emergency. Please ask your family to call you at your homestay phone number if they want to see how you are doing and have brief chats (remember it’s the family phone, so you want to keep your calls brief). They can also call you after your arrival if they want to check to see that you have arrived safely. It is easier and cheaper for them to call you than for you to call home. There is a 6-hour time difference, so if they plan to call you at dinner time (about 9pm Spain time, and 3pm Virginia time), they have a good chance of catching you at home.

Then please ask your family not to expect to speak to you every day, so that you can have the time necessary to adjust to your life in Spain and for all of your duties and activities.

**Contacting people in the US from Spain:**
Your host family will not want you to make long distance calls from their phone. **You do not need a cellphone:** you can use Skype or Facetime, and email to communicate with people in the US.

**If you think you absolutely must have a phone in Spain:**
Check with your cellphone company to see what their international plan costs and what the details are. *It is possible that your phone will not work abroad*, so ask about that also. They can lend or rent you a phone that will work.

Or you can buy a global phone before going to Spain that will work in many countries. Cost per minute is fairly high.

The most economical way to have a phone in Spain is to **buy a cellphone in Spain** with a pre-paid plan, similar to a track phone. You pay for the minutes you use. Those interested can go together one of the first days we are in Spain.

The best way to stay in touch is by e-mail or Skype, and the best advice is to e-mail every few days to parents, friends, etc. You should be using your time in activities in Spain, not corresponding or communicating with people in the US.

**Example of costs for Verizon Global Voice plan or Global Data plan:**
In addition to the monthly access cost ($4.99 per month), there are per-minute costs. Example of per-minute costs for Spain, in addition to $4.99 per month:

**To call** from Spain to US or to other phones in Spain and to receive calls:
- $1.29 per minute (Global Voice plan) or $99¢ per minute (Global Value Plan).

**Internet and Data:**
- Global Data plan: $25 per 100mb (100mb is not very much; you may use that up in a week or less)
- Pay as you go data rate: 2¢ per kb or $20.48 per mb
- To send a text: 50¢ per text
- To receive a text: 5¢ per text.

Verizon phones that work abroad: iPhone 4S, 5, 5C, 5S, Galaxy S4. iPhone 4 does not work abroad. Check with your carrier about your phone. You will have to call them to set up your phone for international use.

Verizon Questions: Customer Service: 800-711-8300