

USING YOUR PHONE IN SPAIN

Important Pre-Departure Phone Decisions

During your time in Spain, you are **required to have an operating smartphone that can make/receive calls, send/receive text messages, and has a data plan**. This is important so that Verto is able to contact you in the event of an emergency. This is mandatory – as outlined in the [Cell Phone Requirements Policy](#) – and is in the interest of your safety and well-being while abroad.

PLEASE NOTE:

If you plan on using your current phone, **your phone MUST be unlocked by your current cell phone provider prior to arriving abroad**. Unlocking your phone in Spain can be time-consuming and, in some cases, impossible – this is **best done well in advance of your departure**. *If you do not unlock your phone prior to arrival, you will be required to purchase a second smartphone for use abroad.*

Here are your phone plan options for Seville:

Option 1:

Local SIM Card With You2Call*

***In order to use a local SIM card, your phone must be unlocked prior to arriving abroad.**

With a prepaid local SIM card or eSIM, you can access the internet and connect with others on apps like WhatsApp. You will get your own Spanish phone number for texting and calling.

Verto facilitates access to a service called **You2Call** to provide participants with SIM cards. This company will visit the residence hall during arrival day and will be present during your first week (Verto Discovery Week) giving you the opportunity to purchase a SIM card. They offer the following monthly plans:

1. Unlimited calls in Spain, 200 text messages, 80GB for 21.75€/month.
2. Unlimited calls in Spain, 200 text messages, 120GB for 25.75€/month.
3. Unlimited calls in Spain, 200 text messages, 160GB for 31.75€/month.

You2Call will give you more information and assist with getting your SIM card or eSIM operating once you are on site. Each SIM card has a one-time activation cost of €3.50, and each eSIM card has a one-time activation cost of €14.75.

*Please note that these fares are subject to change.

Option 2:

Local SIM Card With Other Provider*

***In order to use a local SIM card, your phone must be unlocked prior to arriving abroad.**

With a prepaid local SIM card you can access the internet and connect with others on apps like WhatsApp. You will get your own Spanish phone number for texting and calling.

If you would like to purchase a local SIM card with another provider, there are many phone companies to choose from. On your own, you can visit the Orange, Movistar, or Vodafone stores to see what options they offer. The price of a SIM card ranges from €10-40 per month for data, texting, and calling.

Local SIM Provider Option: Orange

[Orange](#) offers the largest variety of SIM card options, with three different plans to choose from. Each plan offers unlimited national phone calls with varying data options per a 28-day period. After 28 days have passed, you must refill the 'saldo,' or 'balance,' of your phone card in order to renew your plan. This can be done on the Orange app, in Orange stores, or [on the Orange website](#).

Option 3:

International Plan With Home Carrier

Although not recommended due to high cost, you may choose to purchase an international phone plan with your current at-home phone provider prior to your departure to Spain. This option allows you to keep your current phone number. You must ensure that your plan will have both data and calls/texts available internationally.

Option 4:

Purchase a Spanish Smartphone On-site

If you'd prefer to avoid the risk of losing or damaging your phone from home, you may purchase an inexpensive smartphone and SIM card in Spain. This plan must include data so that we can communicate with you in case of an emergency.

Basic smartphones range from about €50-€80 from [CeX](#), Amazon, [Phone House](#) or any other store of your convenience. *Verto staff are not responsible for accompanying you to purchase a local smartphone, so if you choose this option, be prepared to go independently.*

IMPORTANT: Regardless of which option you choose, you may want to consider purchasing a comprehensive insurance plan for your phone in case it gets broken, lost, or stolen.

Option 5:

eSIM

An eSIM is a digital version of a physical SIM card that is built into some devices and allows them to connect to a mobile network. Before buying an eSIM plan, you should check if your device is eSIM compatible (most Androids and iPhone manufactured after 2018 are compatible) and ensure your phone is unlocked; otherwise, your eSIM will not work.

To use an eSIM, you'll need to buy a data plan online that works best for you based on how many GBs you will be using (the average traveler uses around 10GBs per month). It is recommended to download and purchase your eSIM plan before you travel so that when you land in the airport you can easily activate it.

Be sure to select a data plan that includes phone calls and text messages in case of emergencies, **as you are required to be in possession of a working cell phone with the ability to make and receive voice calls, SMS, and internet data capability per our [Cell Phone Policy](#).**

Please note that if you will be traveling out of the country while on-site, your plan may not cover the international destination, so be sure to purchase a plan that will cover your weekend travel plans.

The local carrier You2Call offers eSIM plans and will be available during some Discovery Week activities to assist you with setting up your service. You will need to select an eSIM plan with data, voice calls, and SMS.

You must give your cell number to Verto staff during the first few days in Seville. Always keep your data switched on so that you can be contacted in an emergency. It is the student's responsibility to inform staff if they change cell number during the program.

Add Verto Seville's phone number to your contacts so that we can reach you during an emergency.