

USING YOUR PHONE IN ARGENTINA

Important Phone Decisions to Make Before Departure

During your time in Buenos Aires, you will be **required to have an operating smartphone that can make/receive calls, send/receive text messages, and that 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 with a local SIM or eSIM, your phone MUST be unlocked by your current cell phone provider prior to arriving abroad. You can't unlock your phone in Argentina, so **this must be done 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 Buenos Aires:

Option 1:

International Phone Plan with Home Carrier

You may choose to purchase an international phone plan with your current at-home phone provider prior to your departure to Argentina. 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. While cost is a factor, if you are able to purchase an international plan we recommend this option, as the convenience and reliability of an international plan can significantly simplify phone operations while abroad.

Option 2:

Use a SIM or eSIM with your Unlocked Phone

Using a SIM or eSIM is usually a more inexpensive option, and allows you to use your unlocked phone with a local carrier. During Discovery Week (first week on-site), local Verto staff will support students by accompanying them to the nearest carrier store where they can activate their SIM/eSIM. Please note that there is free WiFi in the Ezeiza Airport, the study center, and all homestays/apartments, ensuring students have access to communication until they get their SIM/eSIM during the first part of Discovery Week.

1. **SIM:** SIM cards (a physical chip) will work with any phone that has been unlocked prior to arriving to Argentina and granted the phone has a physical SIM slot. The physical SIM can be used to transfer that same number to an eSIM by taking it to a cell-phone provider. Claro is the preferred provider.
2. **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. Please note that carriers like Claro will often require a credit card payment in order to purchase a tourist eSIM.

Verto staff will accompany you to a nearby service provider during Discovery Week to activate your SIM card or eSIM, if you choose either of those options. You will bring your unlocked phone, a credit card, and your passport to activate it.

Be sure to select a pay-per-use plan that includes data, 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.

Option 3:

Purchase an Argentinian Smartphone On-site

If you'd prefer to avoid the risk of losing or damaging your phone from home, you may purchase a smartphone and SIM card in Buenos Aires. The least expensive options in Argentina are usually around \$150 to \$250 USD. This plan must include data so that we can contact you in the event of an emergency.

IMPORTANT: It is wise to make sure you have comprehensive insurance for your phone in case it gets broken, lost or stolen. Keep in mind that phones and electronics in general cost more in Argentina than in the U.S. so any headphones and phone accessories are best brought from home and kept safe.

You must give your cell number to Verto staff during the first few days in Buenos Aires and always keep your data switched on so that you can be contacted in an emergency.

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