

USING YOUR PHONE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Important Phone Decisions to Make Before Departure

During your time in Prague, you are **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: Your phone must be unlocked prior to arriving in the Czech Republic. Unlocking your U.S. phone in the Czech Republic is impossible – this must be done by your U.S. provider before you depart. It can be a lengthy process, so start unlocking your phone IMMEDIATELY. *If your U.S. phone is not unlocked when you arrive in the Czech Republic, and you do not have an international data plan from the U.S., you will be required to purchase a second smartphone for use in the Czech Republic.*

Here are your phone plan options for Prague:

Option 1:

Local SIM Card / eSIM

To stay connected while you're abroad, you have two main options: a local SIM card or an eSIM. Both options will give you access to a Czech phone number, mobile data, and allow you to stay in touch via apps like WhatsApp, iMessage, Facetime, and more. Your original number will still work through these apps even after switching to a local plan.

- **Unlocked Phone:** Your phone must be unlocked to use a local SIM or eSIM. Contact your home network provider to unlock it before departure. The process can take a few days and may require your account to meet certain conditions.
- **Compatibility:** To use an eSIM, your device must support eSIM technology. Most iPhones and Android phones made after 2018 are compatible.

During Discovery Week, staff will accompany interested students to a local Vodafone store, or Vodafone representatives may visit the Study Center. There, you can purchase a Czech SIM card that provides:

- A Czech phone number
- Unlimited data, calls, and texting across the EU
- Cost: Approximately 899 CZK/month (~\$38 USD, paid by you)

Note: Whether you choose a SIM or eSIM, you are required to have a working phone capable of voice calls, text messaging, and internet access during your time abroad, per our Cell Phone Policy.

Option 2:

International Plan With Home Carrier

Although not recommended due to the high cost, you may choose to purchase an international phone plan with your current at-home phone provider prior to your departure to the Czech Republic. 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.

Below is an example of what an international phone plan with your U.S. carrier may look like:

International phone plan with home carrier

Verizon TravelPass or AT&T International Day Pass

1. Use your phone like you do at home with unlimited calling and texting along with 4G LTE data. Once added, you'll be charged in 24 hour increments for the days you call, send texts or use data on your device while abroad, so there's no need to remove TravelPass once you return.
2. \$10/line/per day
3. Available in 185+ countries

Overall cost: Average Program length = 105 days, If used everyday on trip= 105 days x \$10 = \$1,050 USD

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. Keep in mind that phones and electronics in general cost more in the Czech Republic 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 Prague. Always keep your data switched on so that you can be contacted in an emergency.