

Intern Phone and Communication FAQs

TracFone and other Non-Contract Phones Overview:

1. TracFone is an example of a Non-Contract Phone, with information on line in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
 - TracFone includes long distance calls (at the same rate as local calls) to over 60 countries. TracFone long distance FAQs can be found on line at:
<http://www.tracfone.com/includes/content/questions/General.jsp?enId=FA10021&esId=FA10022&a=1363866880456>
 - You can place calls to land lines worldwide and to cell phones in the United States and in some international locations.
 - i. There are a handful of countries (including Colombia, Mexico) where you can place long distance calls to Cellular phones with the TracFone, with more specifics on line at:
<http://www.tracfoneid.com/destinations.aspx>
 - ii. For Spain (and many other countries), based on the current service model you can only call land lines with the TracFone.
 - iii. You can also enhance your coverage to include greater cell phone access in other countries with a TracFone [Global Calling card](#).
 - TracFone only works in the U.S. However, while in the U.S., you can make calls to International destinations as outlined above.
2. Other popular non-contract mobile services are: Boost Mobile, brightspot AND most major carriers offer a non-contract service, including Verizon, T-Mobile, etc.

Other communication methods:

1. Interns with iPods and/or cell phones from their home country use [WhatsApp](#)/ WiFi or iMessage / WiFi to message to friends and family.
2. Skype or FaceTime are also used with Computers, Smart Phones or iPods connected to WiFi / Internet.

Examples:

 - one intern from Colombia - didn't have a phone from home and used 1) the TracFone for calls/text in US AND to/from Colombia plus 2) Skype on the computer. They connected with family several times a week via Skype. And, it was also very important for their family to have a phone number they could use to call the intern, and the TracFone worked great for that. The intern received an iPod for Christmas, so they started using it for iMessage (convenient/free) and we still use it now to FaceTime. We also use WhatsApp now, with the former intern's home country cell phone.
 - two interns from Spain - brought their phone from Spain for WhatsApp / Wifi. They also used Skype on the Computer connected to Wifi/Internet. We paid for a TracFone (the intern bought the minutes) for connections with us/buddy families/school, etc. They didn't have any Apple products (for iMessage or FaceTime).
3. Interns connect with each other via WhatsApp and Facebook.
4. Calling cards are another option, though they haven't been used much by interns in the past given all of the other options described above.
 - You can call from landline/cellphone to landline/cellphone. Rates are different but it really is economical in the long run. *Particularly if you use it from a landline, or a cell phone plan with "unlimited" minutes. It wouldn't work well to combine calling cards with a non-contract phone, when you are charged by the minutes used.*
 - Example: If you use the landline, the landline bill does not see a single cent in any charges because you use 1) the landline to call an 800 number, 2) a PIN number, and 3) then dial the country, city code along with the phone number you are calling.