

Cell / Mobile Phones

If you DO NOT have a social security number, choose from one of the following plans:

1. Duke's OIT Residential Services

Duke's OIT Residential Services offers a plan for **STUDENTS ONLY**.

STUDENTS: <http://www.oit.duke.edu/televideo/wireless/orderform.php>

Wait until you get your Student ID and your Unique ID number. Fill out the online order form at the website above. Within 3-7 days, you will receive an email telling you that your phone is ready to be picked up at the Cellular and Paging Office, 684-2359, on West Campus.

EMPLOYEES: Duke employees have two options through OIT: Verizon Wireless or Alltel. Please go to <http://www.oit.duke.edu/televideo/cellular/empldisc.html> for more information.

2. University Mobile

www.universitymobile.com A large variety of plans and options. Can pay by the month or buy a yearly contract to get more minutes. Only requirement is to have a credit or debit card in order to purchase the phone and plan online. 1-800-853-4133.

3. Verizon "InPulse" Prepaid (Pay as you Go)

<http://www.verizonwireless.com> or 1.800.2-JOIN-IN (1.800.256.4646)

You do not need a social security card or a credit card to purchase this.

Retail address: 1058 West Club Blvd, Durham (Northgate Mall) 919.286.7336

4. Cingular Prepaid (Go Phone)

<http://www.cingular.com/gophone> or 1.888.290.4613

Requires a Major U.S. credit card with U.S. billing address to activate service. **Retail Address below**

5. Sprint "Fair and Flexible Plan"

www.sprint.com or 1.888.253.1315

Need a passport number to run a credit check. You may also pay cash instead of paying with a major US credit card at a Sprint store, but not at Radio shack or Staples.

6. Alltel "PrePaid Wireless"

www.alltel.com

You do not need a social security number, but you do need either a debit card or a credit card. Although, you will need to pay a deposit of \$300-\$500.

3409 Hillsborough Road, Suite H Durham, NC 27705 (919) 233-3243

If you have a social security number (SSN) you may choose plans from:

1. Verizon

www.verizonwireless.com or 1.800.2-JOIN-IN (1.800.256.4646)

Need SSN for all services except "Free Up" (prepaid service)

Retail address: 1058 West Club Blvd, Durham (Northgate Mall) 919.286.7336

2. Cingular Wireless

www.cingular.com or 1.866.CINGULAR

Need SSN for all services

Retail address: 1720 Guess Rd, Durham (Northgate Mall) 919.416.1255

TERMS & ADVICE for MOBILE PHONES

1. Incoming Calls

In the US, mobile phones are charged both for receiving and for making calls. Please be aware that incoming calls are deducted from either your "free minutes" (contract phones) or your prepaid account.

2. Using PrePaid Phone Cards with your Mobile Phone

Please note that phone service charges in the US are very different than those in most other countries! We strongly discourage you from using prepaid phone cards (such as those bought at grocery and drug stores) to make lengthy calls from your mobile phone unless you do so at times when your service contract allows you to have unlimited minutes (possibly nights and weekends). TOLL-FREE CALLS WILL STILL BE DEDUCTED FROM YOUR ALLOTTED MINUTES PER MONTH AND YOU WILL BE CHARGED PER MINUTE FOR ALL TIME BEYOND WHAT YOU ARE ALLOWED. Some students have unexpectedly received bills of more than \$500 because they were not aware of this.

If you have any concerns about cost-efficient mobile phone usage, please contact your service provider, OIT, or I-House. You will not be able to dispute charges because you did not understand how charges would be applied.

3. Prepaid Accounts

Compared to contract phones, prepaid accounts often have significantly more expensive rates. Some companies charge a flat fee simply for placing each call (up to 25 cents per call), and then charge 10 cents (or more!) for each minute the call lasts. Daytime calls are more expensive than evening ones and may cost 35 cents per minute or more. Money deposited in a prepaid account also expires if it is not used in a specific period of time, which can be as short as a month. I-House generally advises students/scholars to wait to establish mobile phone service until they are assigned social security numbers, and for students/scholars who do not absolutely need a phone during the first month of their stay, this is certainly the better option.

4. Deposits

When buying a contract phone, you are likely to have to pay a security deposit of \$100-\$150 if you do not have a US credit history. This money should be refunded to you within one year of your subscription to the contract service.

5. GSM/SIM Technology

If you already have a GSM mobile (ie, with a SIM card) that is unlocked (ie, able to be used on a network other than the one you use in your home country), you should consider joining a GSM network—Cingular, AT&T, or T-Mobile. Please note that Cingular mobiles are locked against switching SIM cards when you return to your home country, but many websites offer unlocking services for less than \$50. HUTCH connections are also not reliable in Durham. Some students have found that even if you have a foreign account that will work on these networks, it is worthwhile to at least look at Verizon and other local providers.

6. Connection Fees

Networks often charge a fee simply for joining them, but if you bargain with the agent helping you, you can often have it waived. If not, it is usually not more than \$30.

7. Trial Periods

If you are unsure of which network to choose, it is possible to ask for a trial month to test a service provider. Please be advised that there is a breach of contract fee of approximately \$175 should you change service providers in the middle of a contract.