



# Effective Communication Plan for While Your Student is Abroad

## INITIAL CONTACT

Decide with your student when and how they will first check in upon arrival. Remember that flights can be delayed, their service can be spotty (or they may not have a SIM card yet), and they'll be jetlagged. Phone batteries can also drain more easily abroad as students rely on their phones for GPS and translations. It's normal for students to not make initial contact for 24-48 hours after arrival.

## HOW WILL YOU COMMUNICATE

Apps like Whatsapp and Facebook Messenger allow for free international calls when connected to Wifi. We recommend getting familiar with such apps prior to your student going abroad so that you're able to get in touch with them at little to no cost while they are away.

## WHEN WILL YOU COMMUNICATE

Communication with your student may be less frequent than you are used to while they're at Texas A&M as they explore new countries and continue to take coursework. Establish how often you'll check in and when you'd like to hear from them. Make sure to consider what the time difference is between you and your student's location abroad.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Education Abroad Office maintains an emergency phone line and email account for issues that may arise that would require immediate attention:

+1 (979) 255-6103 / [abroademergency@tamu.edu](mailto:abroademergency@tamu.edu)

Texas A&M must abide by federal privacy laws, including FERPA and HIPPA. Applicable information about health and safety issues will only be released to those listed as the student's emergency contact. Encourage your student to review their emergency contact information prior to heading abroad.

