

Telephones

TELEPHONE SERVICE

Call the following number to start telephone service in your home:

Verizon 1-800-870-9999 www.verizon.com

The basic monthly charge for local calls depends upon the type of service you request, which usually includes free local calls. It can range from \$17.00 to \$31.00 per month. Rates, directory assistance information, and charges for operator assistance are explained in detail in the front of the telephone directory.

There are separate companies for long distance and international calls, but they bill you separately. AT&T, MCI and Sprint are the most popular long distance companies. To obtain information about their services and charges (which vary), contact these companies directly. In selecting a long distance service, you may want to consider the areas they serve, their rates, billing, individual dialing arrangements, incentives such as airline mileage and procedures for establishing an account.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

White Pages

This publication lists business and residential numbers in alphabetical order. Separate books are issued for different towns or areas across the U.S. They are provided by the phone company and are complimentary to all phone owners.

Yellow Pages

This publication lists numbers for hundreds of businesses in Boston and is organized by service. www.bigyellow.com

Cell Phones for International Students:

In addition to all the challenges of coming to a new country, many students are disappointed to learn of the difficulties of getting a cellular telephone from Boston/Cambridge area retailers, simply because they have no established line of credit in America (or a Social Security Number). The pre-paid phone rates are more expensive than plan rates, but if the student doesn't have a Social Security Number (SSN), it is necessary to leave a deposit of \$150 to \$500 USD (depending on the phone company). This deposit will be returned after a year or when the cell phone contract expires.

Pre-Paid Phones

- 1) Purchase a cell phone from a Harvard School COOP or in a Target or Radio Shack Store (they are available in some pharmacies too). Anyone has access to these phones – provided by some companies like ZEE-ZOO! or Tracfone. (www.zeezoowireless.com). No deposit is required.
 - a. Cell phone prices start at \$30 USD with some included minutes.
 - b. Some companies have a service in which minutes can be added by internet or by cards that can be easily acquired in convenience stores.

2) Harvard's Telecommunications Department has partnered with the company MobileSphere (www.cellularid.com/harvard) to provide low-cost prepaid and domestic international service. This service also works on a pay-as-you-go basis with contracts, no credit history, and no deposits required.

More information can be found in the Office for Student Affairs, Kresge G20