

## Can You Hear Me Now? I am in Australia.



In the past when students studied abroad, it was a bit more ambiguous. Many evenings were filled with long distance phone calls on nights and weekends with an attempt to get better rates from the phone companies. Considering today's technology, students can study abroad, even for a whole year, while maintaining consistent communication with their families, friends, and communities. To help give an idea of what this can look like, please see a few of the resources below on ways to stay in contact with your child while he or she is abroad.



**Apple Products:** If you and your child both have iPhones (or other apple devices), you can iMessage and Facetime (and Facetime audio) for free, since they are Wi-Fi based. This means that it is possible that you might not even face a technological communication barrier!



**WhatsApp:** WhatsApp is a messaging app that is used in most countries of the world (except traditionally in the United States, China, and S. Korea). It's free to download and allows you to send messages when you have Wi-Fi. The nice part of WhatsApp is that this is likely how your students will connect with their new friends while abroad, their study abroad providers, their potential host families, and maybe even their teachers! Since your student is likely to use it frequently, this might become one of the fastest ways to get ahold of them. This app also allows calls, video calls, and the ability to post on a private story.



**Facebook Messenger:** A definite benefit of using Facebook messenger is that it is likely already downloaded on your phones. It is also (of course) free, considering that it is also Wi-Fi-based.



**WeChat and Kakao Talk:** These apps are location specific! If your student is studying in China, they will want to use WeChat (and likely will want you to as well!), and if they are studying in S. Korea, they will want to use Kakao talk. These apps serve as a texting app, a social media, and are sometimes even used for purchasing!



zoom

**Other apps to communicate abroad:** Zoom (a free option for video calls), Viber, Text Now, Skype, and email.



**One Way WE Connect with OUR Students Abroad:** Instagram has become the social media of choice for most college-aged students. That said, throughout the semester we pass-off our Instagram login information to one of our study abroad students! This gives the student the chance to post on our "story" for the day and share what their day-to-day life is like abroad.