



OVERSEAS COMMUNICATION POLICY

Remember Why:

1. *Be fully present in your city, fully engaged with new friends, and fully attentive to God.*
 2. *Be careful not to compromise the security of the field workers and/or your new friends.*
- **Cast vision for your friends and family regarding your limitations on communication.*

Weekly Email

Teams should compile a brief update from each team member to send back to friends and family on a preplanned mailing list. Use a gatekeeper or mailing system that does not allow direct replies to team members. *TL/ATL will send a separate update to OneLink and campus ministry leaders.*

For security reasons, do not include pictures of local friends or the Host(s) in newsletters. If needed, you may blur out their faces or crop them out of pictures.

Texting

Text messaging and use of messaging apps (Facebook Messenger, WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram, etc.) should **ONLY** be used for local communication with team members, the Overseas Host(s), and local friends or for your weekly calls home.

Note: team members may need to turn off iMessage to avoid constant messages from home.

Emails

Email can be used for vital logistics (for example: setting up a phone call with family, making travel arrangements, or communicating with OneLink or campus ministry). It should not be used for social communication with friends and family.

Weekly Call Home

Team members may make up to a 60-minute phone/video call to family members once every week, using apps such as Facetime, Zoom, WhatsApp, etc. If needed, team members may also call their campus ministry staff, church staff, or OneLink staff.

Social Media

1. Team members should **NOT** use their personal social media account(s) for the duration of the trip, including Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, etc. It is recommended that team members temporarily suspend these accounts before going overseas, especially if traveling to a secure location.
2. *If your Host recommends or requires you to use social media for local ministry, **this is allowed, but you must create a new account for the summer.** It is highly recommended that, once you have created this new account, you friend your teammates (and the Host(s), if given permission) and make several posts to the account, so that it does not appear new or "fake."*
3. *Use of streaming services such as YouTube, Netflix, Hulu, etc. should be limited to team activities, e.g. using YouTube for worship songs on Sunday, watching a language tutorial, or having a team movie night. These should not be used as an "escape" for individual team members. Please also don't bring gaming devices on your trip.*