

Electronics & Mobile Devices

Annenberg International Programs
Pre-Departure Series

Voltage Converter

- Needed for appliances that cannot convert 110 volts (US) to 220-240 volts (Europe, rest of the world)
- Most electronic devices you bring (iPad, laptop, mobile phone) can handle 220-240 volts
- Examples of appliances that need a converter:
 - Hairdryer
 - Flat iron
 - Shaver

Voltage converters are clunky, heavy, and unnecessary because of the proliferation of dual-wattage appliances and devices.
WE DO NOT RECOMMEND THAT YOU TAKE ONE OF THESE OVERSEAS.



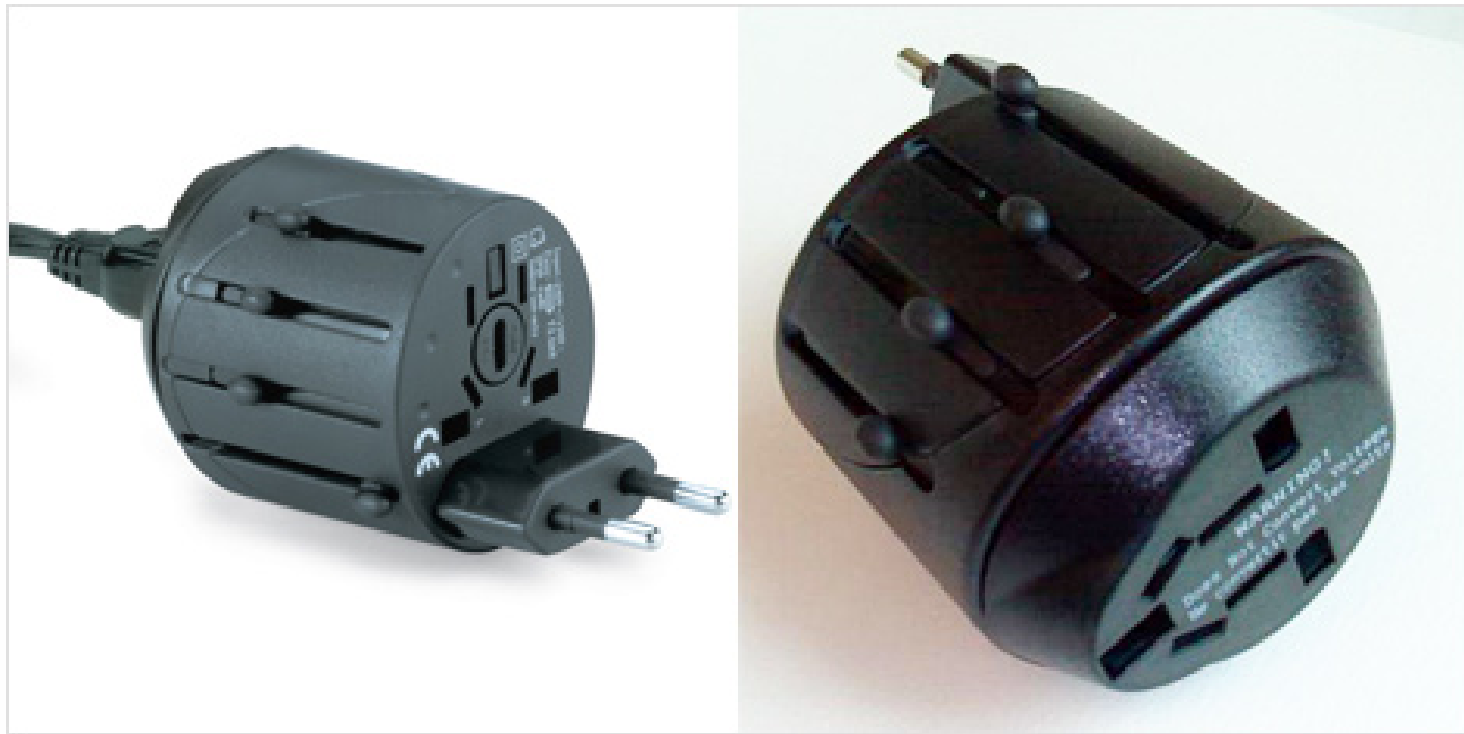
Voltage Converters

- Suggestions
 - Buy a hairdryer, flat iron, shaver, and other appliances at the host country upon arrival
 - Buy appliances (mentioned above) that can handle dual wattage (110 to 220/240 volts)
 - Keep in mind that many of these dual-wattage appliances will burn out while overseas so we strongly recommend the first option/bullet point.
 - Leave the voltage converters behind. They take up precious space and weight in your luggage.

Plug Adapters

- Best option for dual wattage appliances and devices
- U.S. grounded = 3-prong plug
- Most plugs in Europe and elsewhere are 2-prong
- Recommendation
 - The Kensington All-in-One Travel Plug Adapter
 - Includes U.K., Europe, and U.S. plug
 - *Only works for U.S. devices that have 2-prong plugs

The Kensington All-in-One Plug Adapter



#1 Recommendation: Dual Wattage Travel Power Strip



- Many overseas hotel rooms/bedrooms do not have enough outlets to recharge all of your devices at the same time (even fewer outlets if you have a roommate).
- With this dual wattage travel power strip, you only need one plug adapter and one outlet to charge multiple devices.
- 2 grounded outlets on back (not seen), and 1 grounded outlet + 1 USB outlet on front.
- Available online at [Magellan's](#)

U.S. Socket & Plug



U.K./Hong Kong Socket & Plug



Euro (and some parts of Brazil) Socket & Plug



Australia, Argentina, Brazil, China, New Zealand Socket & Plug



South Africa Socket & Plug



Mobile Devices

- **3 options for mobile phone usage**
 - 1) Buy an inexpensive, basic mobile phone in your host country, which includes a SIM card that gives you a local phone number
 - 2) Unlock your current U.S. mobile phone and buy a SIM card.
 - 3) Use your phone as is with an international calling plan.

Option #1

Buy an inexpensive, basic mobile phone in your host country, which includes a SIM card that gives you a local phone number

- You can recharge your pay-as-you-go mobile phone online or by purchasing more minutes at local vendors
- This option is great for students who need a phone for basic calls and text messaging
- Not ideal for students who use a lot of data to connect to the internet on a mobile device
- **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR SEMESTER-LONG STUDENTS**



Option #2

Unlock your current U.S. mobile phone and buy a SIM card for your host country.

- Your current mobile is “locked” into your wireless provider
 - If you have a T-Mobile phone, you would not be able to put in an AT&T SIM card and have it work
 - But if you unlock your phone and then buy a SIM card in your host country, your phone would be able to work while you are overseas
- This is great for students who don't want to buy a new phone or the hassle of learning how to use a new phone.
- Not ideal for students who use a lot of data to connect to the internet
- NOT APPLICABLE TO SPRINT AND VERIZON PHONES, AS WELL AS OLDER GENERATION IPHONES
 - These two wireless carriers' phones and *some* iPhones do not have SIM card capability.



Option #3

Use your phone as is with an international calling plan.

- You pay a flat rate for the international calling plan, which allows you to receive discounted rates on international phone calls.
- You will still have to pay your regular monthly fees, plus the international calling plan flat rate, fees for international text messages (these are not included in your text messaging plan) AND all those extra minutes for international phone calls you place.
- Even though you're still using your U.S. number to call another U.S. number in your host country, you'll still rack up international minutes
- This option is great for students who do not have SIM card access on their phone and who don't want the hassle of buying a phone/SIM card in your host country
- It's a cheaper option for those who call you (but not for you to call them).
- Not ideal for students who are looking for the most cost-effective option.
- **RECOMMENDED FOR STUDENTS ON SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS (ONE MONTH OVERSEAS OR LESS)**

