**Telephone services:**

The mobile/cell phones are usually the easiest for one to have than the land lines since you get access with you every time. Most US phone companies will offer 1 to 2 year contracts and thus this would not be ideal for students who will be in US for only one year. The best option for students staying for less than 2 years is to get pre-paid cell phone plans, which are offered by almost all cell phone companies. Be sure to look up at different providers and see who offers the best in coverage and cost. Please note that some companies do not offer SIM cards and thus you may not be able to use them with a phone that you would be bringing from home. It's good for students who will be calling internationally to look at the various options offered by different companies that would give them the best deals to call oversees.

**Other calling resources include:** use of calling cards, which are widely available at various stores, at gas stations etc. Other best source is using Skype where you can make both free Skype to Skype calls or pay a small fee to call on landlines and mobiles.

Harvard's Telecommunications Department has partnered with the company MobileSphere (www.cellularld.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.