



ELI NEWS

English Language Institute • University of Pittsburgh
Parkvale Building, Room M13, 200 Meyran Ave • Pittsburgh PA 15260

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ELI Closing Ceremony

by Stacy Ranson



The ELI would like to invite you to the Closing Ceremony for this semester. The ceremony will be on Thursday, August 3, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the Dining Room of the O'Hara Student Center at 4024 O'Hara Street. We'll take pictures, have some refreshments, and hand out attendance certificates at the ceremony. You all have played a big role in making this semester great—we hope you'll come celebrate with us!

Schedule for August 3, 2017

Classes beginning at...	Meet at...
10:00 am	10:45-11:00 am
11:00 am	11:05-11:20 am
12:00 noon	11:25-11:40 am
2:00 pm	11:45-12:00 pm
3:00 pm	12:05-12:20 pm
Closing Ceremony 1:00-3:00 pm O'Hara Student Center	

English Language Institute Final Exam Schedule Summer 2017

The ELI gives final exams at the end of the term. These exams are worth 30% of the final grade for each class. There are no excused absences for finals. The ELI does not give early final exams or

make up exams. Please note the following schedule and plan to be present for the finals.

Friday, July 28	Monday, July 31	Tuesday, August 1
Writing final 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Grammar final 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Reading final 10:00am-12:00 pm
Speaking final 1:00 pm-3:00 pm	Listening final 2:00 pm-4:00 pm	

ELI Surveys: Tell the ELI What You Think!

by Heather McNaught

The ELI is very happy that you have chosen to come here to study. We always want to improve each student's experience in our program and to make our program even better. Therefore, we hope you will participate in three different surveys and give the ELI your ideas and opinions!

The ELI has three different surveys, each one focused on a different aspect of the program. These are the surveys and a little of information about each one.

Teaching Survey

This survey asks you about your experience with each of your teachers this semester. You can provide feedback about different aspects of your teacher's instruction in the classroom on this survey.

When: July 18 - 27

How to complete: A teacher will come to your class and give you instructions.

Curriculum Survey

This survey is about the content of each of your courses. It includes questions about the textbook and classroom activities.

When: During the last week of classes

How to complete: Write your answers on the survey paper your teacher gives you in class.

ELI Program Survey

The ELI Program Survey asks for your feedback on the ELI as an institute. The survey contains questions about the classrooms and facilities, the activities and what you like/dislike about the ELI.

When: Weeks 10-12

How to complete: You can complete this survey online through the university's Qualtrics survey system. Your responses will be anonymous; we at ELI will see the total responses but we will not know how each individual student answered.

The ELI uses the information from these surveys to make very important decisions that affect the future of the ELI. Your feedback is a crucial part of this process. The ELI strongly encourages you to take a few minutes to complete each of these surveys.

Please ask the front office staff, Stacy or one of your teachers if you have any questions.

Pre-registration for Next Term

If you are planning to continue in the ELI and you have not seen Stacy, you must visit her during her office hours by **August 4** to sign up for classes.

ELI enrollment is very full. If you want to participate in classes, you must pre-register. If you have not talked to Stacy yet, you must see her soon.

New ELI Website

by Rob Mucklo

Check out the ELI's new website at www.eli.pitt.edu! Our website address is still the same, but our new web site is completely redesigned and provides all the information we think potential students want to know. Be sure to click through the different pages and check out the photos. You might see some familiar faces. You might even be famous yourself!

We'd like to extend a special thank you to the 26 ELI students who provided feedback on how we can improve the website. We appreciate your input and are working on making many of those revisions. One of the revisions we're pursuing is expanding our ELI Alumni page. Please keep in touch with us in the future and let us know how you're using English, how the ELI helped you achieve your goals, or your favorite memories from the ELI. We'd love to feature you on our Alumni Page.

Stacy's Office Hours Term Break

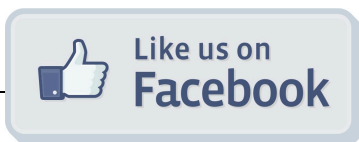


I know that some of you may need to see me after the ELI term ends. Remember, if you are planning to leave the U.S. and return to the ELI next semester, I must sign your I-20 before you go. If you need me for this, or for any other reason, please note the following dates and times.

I will be available in my office (M22) during the hours below. I will not be available any other time during the break, and I will not write letters of recommendation or review statements of purpose over the break, so please plan carefully.

Monday, August 7	Tuesday, August 8	Wednesday, August 9
9:00 am-10:00 am	12:00-1:00 pm	12:00-1:00 pm

www.facebook.com/PittELI



Homeless Ministry Volunteer Opportunity

by Brianne Harrison

If you are interested in helping people while also practicing your English, volunteer for the homeless ministry rounds. On Sunday afternoon, July 30, a small group of volunteers is needed to prepare and distribute lunches to the hungry and less fortunate people right here in our own community. We will begin work by packing brown bag lunches at 12:30. Afterwards, the group will pass out the lunches to the needy people on the streets of Oakland. The activity will last until about 3:00. To sign up for this opportunity, please contact Brianne as soon as possible at elicomm@pitt.edu or visit her in office M-06.

ELI Fall Schedules and Book Swap

If you are continuing in the ELI for the fall term, you may pick up your new schedule any time after 12:00 pm on Thursday, September 7. Classes start Friday, September 8. The ELI will also make the Vault available to students on Thursday, September 7 from 12:00-2:00 pm for a textbook swap. If you would like to meet up with your classmates to sell or exchange textbooks for the new term, the ELI will provide updated book lists for classes and the space; the negotiations are all up to you!



I-20 Expiration Dates for F-1 Students

by Stacy Ranson

The end of the semester is coming soon! If you are an F-1 student, please check the expiration date on your I-20. On page 1 of your I-20, under #5, you will see a beginning date for your studies and a completion date for your studies. **Remember that it is your responsibility to make sure that your I-20 does not expire!** If your I-20 will expire at the end of this semester, you must see Stacy Ranson if you want to extend your time at the ELI. **It is too late to request an**

extension after your I-20 has expired, so please take a moment to check now.

ELI Calendar Online

When is the first day of next term? When is Fall Break? Be ready for Fall by checking the calendar on the ELI website:



<http://www.eli.pitt.edu/calendar/index.html>.

Keep in Touch!

by Rob Mucklo

The semester is coming to an end, and many of you will be leaving the ELI to pursue a degree or to return to your country and start/continue with your career. Please do keep in contact with us and let us know how you're doing:

- Like and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PittELI
- Follow us on Twitter at @UPITT_ELI
- Join our LinkedIn professional networking group at <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4844214>

Next time you're in Pittsburgh, please stop by the ELI for a visit. We love to see former students and hear of their successes!

Restaurant Week

by Rob Mucklo

This week is "Restaurant Week" in Oakland. Twenty two different restaurants have \$6 lunch specials all this week. This is a great chance to try somewhere different and have a delicious lunch. Yesterday I went to Top Shabu Shabu for the very first time, and I loved it! I encourage you to try a new restaurant this week.



A complete listing of participating restaurants and their special Restaurant Week menu can be found at: <http://onlyinoakland.org/events/restaurantweek/>.

FI Students and Part Time Study

Students with FI visas have the benefit of taking a vacation term for part time study. If you have studied full time at the ELI for two semesters, you can choose to take a break next semester or to study part time.

Please remember that you must pre-register for this benefit, though. You cannot change to part time or to a vacation term after the term starts. There are no exceptions to this rule. The deadline for choosing a vacation term or part time study for FI students is **August 4, 2017**.

Also, please remember that Saudi and Kuwaiti students who are sponsored by their governments are not allowed to study part time because of sponsor rules. If you are a sponsored student and would like to study part time, you must provide a letter of permission from your sponsor before July 31. This letter must be in English. The ELI does not make these requests for students; you must speak to your sponsor yourself.

Letters of Recommendation

Many of you will need to ask Stacy for a letter of recommendation if you are applying to other institutions. There are two important things to remember when making a request for a letter. The first factor is that letters of recommendation are based on your performance at the ELI. Stacy uses your grade reports as a resource for information about your performance. If you miss a lot of classes and don't do your work, your letter of recommendation will not be very strong.

The second important factor is time. Please remember that it takes approximately one week to receive a letter of recommendation. Stacy has many letters to write, and she cannot provide them immediately when you ask for them. **This means that if you need a letter before the semester break in August, you should request it by Monday, July 31. If you request a letter after this date, or during the break, you will have to wait until after the fall term begins.**

Please plan ahead when making your requests.

ELI Activity:



Pitt Night at PNC Park!

There are 15 of us going to see the Pittsburgh Pirates when they take on the Cincinnati Reds on Wednesday, August 2, at 7:05 pm. If you purchased a ticket, you can get your ticket from Rob in M18 between 1 and 2 pm or after 2:50. On August 2, we'll meet in the ELI at 5:45: to take the bus downtown together. We'll get our free hat at the game.

NO BIG BAGS!

Guests at PNC Park are permitted to bring one bag. Only soft bags are permitted; hard briefcase type bags are not. Bags that are larger than 16"x16"x8" are NOT permitted. All bags may be searched upon entry and within the ballpark.

NO OPEN WATER BOTTLES!

Guests are allowed to bring food and bottled water into the park. Water bottles must be sealed, never opened. Water bottles may NOT be larger than 24 oz. Alcoholic beverages, cans, glass bottles, water bottles/thermoses are not allowed to be brought in.

NO REFUNDS!

There are no refunds and no cancellations. Baseball games are rarely cancelled because of weather. Even if it rains, we will still go to the game.

ELI Survey

The ELI recently sent an email to all students asking them to take an online survey. This survey is important to us: it helps us know what students like about our courses and services, and also what we could do better. Please take a few minutes to look at that email and respond (the email was sent to you last week).

Your response will be anonymous. In other words, we will not know who you are. Your response goes directly to Qualtrics, an online survey service.

Qualtrics puts the information together for us and gives us the total numbers. But it does not tell us what each student wrote on the survey. So, you can be honest without worrying about hurting our feelings!

Please look for that email and share your thoughts with the ELI. Thanks!

Important: Financial Guarantees Needed

All ELI students who are sponsored by their governments or another organization are required to submit one copy of their current, valid financial guarantee to the ELI Main Office. Sponsored students must also complete the Sponsored Student Information Sheet in the ELI Main Office. The ELI requires this information each term, as sponsors and student advisors must be contacted.

Remember, students must also submit one copy of a current, valid financial guarantee each term to the Student Payment Center. This can be taken to G-7 Thackeray Hall or can be emailed to PittSponsorBilling@cfo.pitt.edu.

Students are responsible for doing this in a timely manner each term. Remember, students who do not submit financial guarantees become personally responsible for tuition and fees at the University of Pittsburgh. To review your responsibilities as a sponsored student, please visit <http://www.payments.pitt.edu/sponsorsdbilling.html>

Photos from ELI Activities

by Rob Mucklo

We had lots of fun activities this semester and made lots of good memories together. If you'd like to view or download photos from the activities planned by the ELI this semester visit <https://pitt.box.com/v/ELI-Pics-Summer2017>.

Share your favorite pics on Facebook, Twitter, and other social media to let your family and friends know you enjoyed your time in Pittsburgh!

Playing Sports at Pitt: Plan Ahead for Fall Registration!

by Suzanne Meyer

Playing teams sports can be a great way to exercise and keep fit. Additionally, playing sports with others can help you make new friends or develop the friendships you already have.

Pitt offers "intramural sports," which are student sports teams (not official Pitt teams) that have a regular schedule of matches against other student teams at Pitt. According to the university website, a benefit of intramurals is that they do not require a lot of time. There aren't any practices, and games occur on campus. Additionally, registering for and participating in an intramural team is free. The following sports will be offered in the fall: indoor soccer, volleyball, basketball, touch football and ultimate frisbee.

Registration for fall intramural sports starts before ELI classes begin, so if you are interested in forming an ELI team, make your plans now. Contact elicomm@pitt.edu (the Community Outreach Coordinator) as soon as possible! The coordinator cannot register students directly but can help you with the registration process.

Red, Ripe, and Roasted Tomato and Garlic Festival!

by Anthony Verardi



Summer is the perfect time to enjoy fresh, local produce from around the Pittsburgh area, and what better place to do it than at Phipps Conservatory? On Sunday, August 27, they will host the 13th annual Red, Ripe, and Roasted Tomato and Garlic Festival from 11:00 am-4:00 pm outside of the main area.

There will be cooking demonstrations, contests for different kinds of homegrown produce, and much more! Proceeds will benefit the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, and guests who bring (or purchase) a bag of fresh produce will be admitted free of charge to Phipps' new glass art show and butterfly forest during the event. Visit their event page for more

information:

<https://www.phipps.conservatory.org/calendar/detail/red-ripe-and-roasted> See you there!

Transfer Process

Students with F1 visas who want to transfer to a new school must see Stacy to complete the transfer. You must bring a copy of the acceptance letter and the transfer form from the new school. You may transfer at any time during the term, but you must complete this process to remain in legal status. Remember that if you complete your final term of study at level 6 at the ELI, you have a 60-day grace period. During that time, you may stay in the U.S. without studying, and you may request a transfer at any time during that 60-day period. If you do not complete level 6, you have a 2-week grace period, and you must request a transfer within that time.

If you do not request a transfer during the grace period, you will be out of status at the end of your grace period, and it will be too late to transfer your SEVIS record. Please see Stacy if you have any questions about this process.

First Day of Fall 2017 Term

Please remember that if you are planning to study at the ELI next term, the first day of official attendance is

Friday, September 8, 2017. If you arrive at the ELI after the first day of official attendance, you will be counted absent for each day that you miss. If you cannot arrive by Friday, September 15, you will need to wait until the next semester to attend the ELI. Please see Stacy if you cannot arrive by September 15.



Networking Group on

LinkedIn

<http://tinyurl.com/ELI-LinkedIn>

Address Updates

by Abram Balestra

Remember, each time that you change your address, you must update your address with the University of Pittsburgh and with immigration. Please visit the ELI Main Office to update your address.

You must also change your address with the bank, your cell phone provider, and with any other company or office that is using your old address.

If you are expecting a refund from the university, the university will mail it to the address they have on file. Therefore, if you don't update your address your check may be mailed to the wrong place.

Pittsburgh-ese Word of the Week: "N'at"

Meaning: "And so on..." or "And so forth..." Usually used for emphasis on whatever thing was done.

Example: "Yeah, we had to do grocery shopping n'at."

National Holidays

by Rachael Crabb

Need an excuse to celebrate during your break? One of the weird things about American Culture is that nearly every day

is some wacky holiday! July 30 is National Cheesecake day, where The Cheesecake Factory restaurant will debut new flavors of cheesecake and also sell slices for half price. August 4, right after you'll be finished for the semester, is National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day. Or, if you'd like to take place in even more American traditions, August 10 is National S'mores Day. Nearly every day recognizes something different. If you're looking for a reason to have fun, check out <https://nationaldaycalendar.com> and see what you'd like to celebrate!

