



# ELI NEWS

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

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ELI Activity:

## ELI NIGHT

Wednesday, July 19



Get ready for one of the most highly anticipated activities in the ELI! ELI Night will be held on Wednesday, July 19 from 4-7 pm in the William Pitt Union Ballroom. ELI Night is a potluck dinner for ELI students and teachers, Talk Time leaders, conversation partners, and their families and friends. At a potluck dinner, everyone brings a dish to share. The dish should be enough to feed you and your guests and approximately 6-8 others. There is always a diverse selection of delicious food to select from. You will not leave hungry!

To compensate guests for their hard work preparing food, after dinner, ELI students and teachers perform. If you'd like to sing, dance, or play an instrument for us, please let Rob know as soon as possible so that he can plan accordingly. If you are too timid to perform alone, get your classmates together and perform something as a group. This year, we'll also be doing karaoke! Karaoke is a form of entertainment in which people sing along to music. You see the words on a TV screen, and you sing the words. If you have a song you'd like us to sing at karaoke at ELI Night, you must let Rob know in advance. Again, if you'd like to perform in any way at ELI Night, please email Rob at [Rob.Mucklo@pitt.edu](mailto:Rob.Mucklo@pitt.edu) if you are interested in performing. He will respond to confirm your performance.



## Coffee Talk on Fridays!

4:00 – 6:00 pm Panera (3800 Forbes Ave.)

## 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.

## Change! F1 Students and End-of-Term Grace Period

Beginning summer, 2017, the Department of Homeland Security will require students to complete all levels of the ELI program in order to receive the 60-day grace period following the completion of study. This means that if you complete level 6 at the ELI, you will have 60 days after your last day of study to remain in the U.S.

If you complete study at the ELI before taking level 6, you will have a two-week grace period after your final day of class. This means that you will need to leave the U.S. within 2 weeks of your last day of study if you do not complete level 6.

Please note that the grace period is different for students who transfer to a

new program. If you transfer to a new program at any time, you must begin study at the first available term for the new program. You are permitted to be out of school for up to 5 months before beginning the first available term of your new program, however. Please see Stacy if you have questions about these policies.

## 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 July 31 to sign up for classes.

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

## 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.

## ELI Photo Contest: Deadline Friday, July 7!

Show us how you see the world by entering the ELI Photo Contest!



We're looking for artwork for the ELI walls and to promote the ELI. We think the best source for that art is the students who make us who we are. We are looking for photos in the following categories:

**Show Some Class:** Take a photo that represents the experience of being a student in the ELI. Is there a certain space, person, or object in the ELI building or neighborhood that really represents the ELI for you?

**In the Know:** Now that you know what's cool in Oakland and Pittsburgh, why not share it with the rest of us? Snap a photo of the areas of the city that you think everyone should know about.

**Active Imagination:** Many of you have participated in ELI Activities this term, and we know you have lots of pictures to prove it! Do any of your photos stand out? Enter your favorite!

**Get Some Fresh Air:** Pittsburgh is full of beautiful parks and outdoor spaces. Get out into nature and capture a photo of plants, animals, insects, or any other creatures that cross your path!

**Pick-Me-Up:** ELI students work hard every day to improve their English. With classes and homework, the schedule can be tiring. Who or what is your pick-me-up for when your energy is low? Can you capture that energy in a photo?

**ELI Pride:** Show off your school pride with a photo of you and your buddies wearing ELI or Pitt gear.

### Participation:

- The contest is open to all current University of Pittsburgh ELI students.
- Judges will select 3 finalists from each category to be put on display at the ELI. Note: Categories must have at least 3 entries to be considered for prizes.

- ELI students and faculty will vote on their favorite photos among the finalists.
- Winning photographers in each category will have their photos framed for the ELI walls.
- Photographers may bring entries on a flash drive to Stacy Ranson in M22, or email sar72@pitt.edu.
- The deadline for submission is Friday, July 7 by 12:00 pm.

### Contest Rules:

- No photographs incorporating alcohol or illegal activities will be considered.
- All submissions must be your own. Each student may enter ONE photo per category.
- All photographers who enter the contest give the University of Pittsburgh the right to use their photos for promotional purposes.

## 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 July 31, 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.

## 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.



## Picnic Refund

By Abram Balestra

The ELI Faculty and Staff had a great time at the ELI picnic. We hope you all did as well! For those students who attended the picnic, you can pick up your \$5 deposit from the Main Office starting today, July 6, until 3:00 PM on Tuesday, July 11. **After that time, your money will be donated to a local food bank.** If you have any questions, please see Abe or Anthony in the ELI Main Office.

## Writers Wanted!



The ELI loves to publish articles by its students. Would you like to share your thoughts on a recent ELI activity? Would you like to write about your American experience? If so, please email your submissions to us at [elipitt@pitt.edu](mailto:elipitt@pitt.edu). All levels are welcome!

ELI Activity:

### Trip to Kennywood



Make a New Memory.

Do you like roller coasters and thrill rides? If you do, then mark your calendars and join the ELI as we go to Kennywood Amusement Park on Sunday, July 16 for Pitt Day! This is a special day for Pitt employees, their families, and their friends. The teachers and staff of the ELI would love for our students to join us.

Regular admission to the park is \$44.99, but the University of Pittsburgh has a limited number of tickets available for only \$22 (plus \$3 handling fee and tax)! (Children under 2 are free; seniors 55 and over are \$17.00.) The special Pitt Day tickets get you admission to the park for Pitt Day on July 16 and a catered picnic lunch. In addition to the special price and lunch, there will also be prizes, bingo, and activities for kids! Pitt Day tickets are available on a first come first served basis online at <https://www.kennywood.com/pitt>.

Keep in mind that the sooner you buy your tickets the better. There are only a limited number of tickets available at the discounted price. Tickets can only be purchased online, and you will print your ticket. This special price is not available at the ticket office at Kennywood. You can buy up to 10 tickets, so invite your family and friends! There are no refunds. Once you have purchased your ticket, please email Rob at [Rob.Mucklo@pitt.edu](mailto:Rob.Mucklo@pitt.edu) to let him know you will be attending.

The 61C bus will drop us off at Kennywood, so it's even easy to get there! We will meet in the lobby of the ELI at 9:30 am on Sunday, July 16, and take the 61C bus to Kennywood together. The park opens at 10:30 am and the park closes at 10 pm. Rob will stay at the park until 6 pm, but you can

leave the park anytime you wish.

For more information about Kennywood, visit <https://www.kennywood.com/>

## Pitt Master of Laws for Foreign-Trained Lawyers Program (LLM)

The University of Pittsburgh offers a Master of Laws (LLM) degree that provides lawyers who have already completed a law degree outside the U.S. with training in common law legal tradition and the U.S. legal system. This is a one-year program with an average of 15 students each year. It is offered by the School of Law's Center for International Legal Education. For acceptance to this program, TOEFL and IELTS scores are waived for students who have completed all classes at ELI Level 5 or 6 with at least 85% final grades in each class. Applicants must also have a recommendation from the ELI Student Advisor. See Stacy if you have questions, or find out more about getting your LLM at Pitt Law School by visiting the LLM program website at <http://law.pitt.edu/llm>, or call 412-648-7023.

## 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. You may only take one vacation term during your study at the ELI.

Please remember that you must **pre-register** for this benefit. You cannot change 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 July 31, 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.

## Transfer Process

Students with FI 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.

## Summer Fridays at The Frick!

by Rachael Crabb

Every Friday during the summer, The Frick hosts Summer Fridays, which include free music performances and activities on the grounds of the Frick. The musical performances start at 6:30 p.m. and all activities last until 9:00 p.m. In addition to performances and activities, visitors also have the chance to tour Clayton, the Frick family home, dine at The Café at the Frick, enjoy food from local food trucks, and even picnic on the Frick grounds. Everything is free except for admission to the *Irving Penn: Beyond Beauty* exhibit, which costs \$10 per person. For more information, visit: <http://www.thefrickpittsburgh.org/visitor-information/summer-fridays/>

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