



ELI NEWS

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

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April Proclaimed as English Language Month

According to the Registrar of the National Day Calendar, English Language Month is a month-long celebration of the uniqueness of the English language and all of the students working hard to master it. This is the first year that the National Day Calendar has proclaimed April as the designated month to celebrate the English language. The TOEFL® has also partnered with the National Day Calendar to celebrate and promote English Language Month.

The goal of English Language Month is to create an ongoing celebration of this global and constantly evolving language. The English language unites people from diverse backgrounds and brings people together through their work, education, pop culture, and everyday communication. This month is a time to recognize students just like yourself at the ELI, who are dedicated to working hard and studying to learn the language.

According the United Nations (UN), English Language Day began in 2010 and is celebrated on April 23rd because that is the date traditionally observed as both the birthday and date of death of William Shakespeare. The United Nations established six language days throughout the year to celebrate the Organization's six official languages and promote equal use of each throughout the UN.

Follow the English Language Institute on Facebook and share your experience as an ELI student on social media to celebrate the month! Tag the ELI and use #EnglishLanguageMonth to share with your friends around the world!

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 April 12, from 1:00-3:00 pm in the Kurtzman Room of the William Pitt Union. 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!

ELI Final Exam Schedule Spring 2018

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

Friday, April 6	Monday, April 9	Tuesday, April 10
Writing final 10:00am-12:00pm	Grammar final 10:00am-12:00pm	Reading final 10:00am-12:00pm
Speaking final 1:00pm-3:00pm	Listening final 2:00pm-4:00pm	

Safety Tips for the Break

As we move into the break, we hope that you will all take the time to relax and enjoy your time off. While you are away, please keep the following tips in mind for a safe break:

- If you encounter someone who is rude or discriminates against you in public, ignore the person and leave the area as soon as possible. Do not respond to rudeness with rudeness; the safest and most intelligent thing to do is to walk away.
- If an employee of a business discriminates against you, leave the area, and write down the time, place, what happened, and name of the employee, if you have it.
- It is important to report inappropriate behavior to a store or office manager – the company or office will want to know if their employee is using inappropriate behavior. Stacy can help you decide if you want to make a report and how to do it. Stacy's email is sar72@pitt.edu.

We are sharing these tips because it is good to be prepared in case something negative happens, but we are also confident that your break will be filled with calm and happiness. Have a wonderful break!



www.facebook.com/PittELI

Short Class Schedule for April 12

Classes beginning at...	meet...
10:00 am	10:35-10:50 am
11:00 am	10:55-11:10 am
12:00 noon	11:15-11:30 am
1:00 pm	11:35-11:50 am
2:00 pm	11:55-12:10 pm
3:00 pm	12:15-12:30 pm
Closing Ceremony	1:00-3:00 pm

ELI Lockers

Please note that ELI lockers must be cleaned out by 12:00 pm on Friday, April 13. Locks must be removed. Locks left on lockers after April 13 will be cut off, and anything left in lockers will be placed in lost and found. Please see the ELI main office if you have any questions.

Paying Tuition Summer 2018

You will be able to pay your tuition starting April 2. You should pay your tuition for the summer 2018 term before May 17, 2018. If you pay after this date, you will be charged late fees. Check your account by logging in to my.pitt.edu and clicking PittPay. There are several ways to pay your tuition.

- **eCheck:** Free online transfer from a US bank account to your Pitt account.
- **Payment plan:** \$55 fee, see <http://payments.pitt.edu/payment-plans/>
- **Cash, check, or money order:** Visit the Student Payment Center in room G-7 Thackeray Hall.
- **Credit cards:** online **only** at my.pitt.edu—you may not use a credit card at Thackeray Hall. There is an additional 2.75% fee for using a credit card.

ELI



Follow Us on Twitter!

Follow us on Twitter at
@UPITT_ELI

Activity:



Baseball Game Reminders

If you purchased a Pirates ticket, you must pick up your ticket from Ece in M02 **from 1:30-2:00 today, Thursday, April 5 or Friday, April 6**. If you cannot pick up your ticket during these times, please email Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu to make other arrangements.

On Saturday, April 7, we'll meet at 6 pm in the lobby of the ELI building and take the bus downtown together. The game starts at 7:05 pm, but we must leave early because there will probably be traffic and we want to arrive on time. You can also go on your own if you prefer, but please tell Ece when you pick up your ticket.

Dress warmly! The temperature Saturday night will be -4 degrees Celsius. Baseball games can last for 3-4 hours and there will be a fireworks show after the game, weather permitting. You don't have to stay until the end of the game. You are welcome to leave the game anytime you want, but make sure you know how to get home from the ballpark.

There are no cancellations or refunds. Even if the weather is cold, we will still go to the game. Baseball games are rarely cancelled because of weather, but the fireworks show could be cancelled.

No big bags are permitted. Soft bags are permitted; hard briefcase type bags are not. Bags that are larger than 16"x16"x8" are NOT permitted. All bags are subject to search upon entry and within the ballpark.

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

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month at Pitt

Sponsored by the Title IX Office, the University will host a variety of events and activities throughout the month of April with the goal of increasing awareness and knowledge around the issue of sexual assault.

Title IX is a U.S. law that gives you the right to report any instances of sexual misconduct to the University, have the University investigate what happened, and have your complaint resolved. Sexual misconduct is sexual contact that you do not want:

- Someone speaking to you in a sexual way or asking you for sex when you aren't interested.
- Someone forcing you to have sexual contact.
- Relationship violence: Spouse/partner speaking to you or treating you in an abusive or violent way.
- Stalking: Someone repeatedly following or threatening you, including by phone/text/email/mail/social media.

You can report sexual misconduct to ELI officials or to the police. The ELI will help you report the issue to the University. Please note: If you report an issue to an ELI staff or faculty member, the ELI is required to report the issue to the University Title IX office. The ELI cannot maintain complete confidentiality. In other words, if you tell any teacher or staff member in the ELI, they must report it to the university. If you want to speak to a confidential advisor, the ELI can help you find a counselor at the University Counseling Center. In almost all cases, this counselor will not inform other people about what you tell them.

University Counseling Center
119 University Place
Nordenberg Hall
412-648-7930

If you experience any type of sexual misconduct, harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, please talk to the ELI Student Advisor or an ELI teacher immediately.

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 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 Pre-registration Summer 2018

If you plan to study at the ELI next term, you must pre-register with Stacy in room M22. If you do not pre-register with Stacy, the ELI cannot guarantee your place for the next term. If you plan to take a vacation term, you must see Stacy to register for that, too. The ELI will then electronically register you with the University of Pittsburgh. You will need to check the ELI News later in the term for information on how and when to pay your tuition.

ELI Spring Schedules and Book Swap

If you are continuing in the ELI next term, you may pick up your new schedule in the ELI main office any time after 12:00 pm on Thursday, May 10. Classes start Friday, May 11. The ELI will also make the Vault available to students on Thursday, May 10 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!



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, April 16	Tuesday, April 17	Wednesday, April 18
12:00- 1:00 pm	12:00- 1:00 pm	12:00-1:00 pm

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 April, you should request it by Monday, April 9. If you request a letter after this date, or during the break, you will have to wait until after the next term begins.** Please plan ahead when making your requests.

First Day of Summer 2018 Term



Please remember that if you are planning to study at the ELI next term, the first day of official attendance is Friday, May 11, 2018. 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, May 18, you will need to wait until the next semester to attend the ELI. Please see Stacy if you cannot arrive by May 18.

Income Tax Information

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is the department of the U.S. government that is responsible for collecting taxes. If you lived in the U.S. during 2017, you must send the IRS some information. All international students who are not residents of the U.S. must file IRS Form 8843. Your spouses and children must also file this form. You may have to file other forms, as well. You can find form 8843 online at <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf>.

You must send your forms to the IRS before April 15, 2018. If you need help filling out the IRS forms or have questions about taxes, there are many resources that can help you.

Some of you will receive a 2017 Tuition Statement from the University of Pittsburgh. Students use this statement when they need to pay taxes. If you did not work in the U.S. during 2017, you do not need to pay taxes, and you don't need to use this statement. **If you did not work, you must still file form 8843, though.**

You can find more information about filing taxes and tax resources at <https://ois.pitt.edu/resources/taxes/tax-assistance/>.

Please note: The ELI does not have any tax professionals on staff. If you have more questions about filing taxes, please contact the IRS or a tax professional.

A Rabbit Named Fred

Stories from Writing 6

In Writing 6, students were asked to write short stories with core vocabulary in small groups. Although both of the stories below begin in the same way, their plots continue very differently. Do the stories have conclusive endings? If not, what do you think will happen next?

A Rabbit Named Fred

by Donjie Liu, Sultan Alqahtani & Jumah Alkhaibari

Once upon a time there was a rabbit named Fred. He woke up early one day, popped his head out of his burrow, and it looked like someone was looking for food. He was ambivalent about which road he should take to escape. Consequently, he had to use his sense of smell to locate the closest source of food, a place where there would be a lot of carrots. Unfortunately, in his journey to get there, there would be a lot of volatile situations that he might face such as predators and hunters. He pensively figured out a contingency plan in case he had to escape from any of them.

A Rabbit Named Fred

by Tadpol Rachatasumrit, Shahad Alshuaibi, & Ibtihal Alhajji

Once upon a time there was a rabbit named Fred. He woke up early one day, popped his head out of his burrow and pensively started his day. He ran and he kept running all over the garden. Suddenly, the wittiest, most gorgeous rabbit came towards him. Fred's timid demeanor became an adversity preventing him from talking with her. Wavering between talking to her or getting away from her, the gorgeous rabbit unexpectedly ran away from him. In conclusion, Fred kept running and enjoying the charming city.

Coffee Talk on Fridays!

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



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.

F1 Students and Part Time Study

Students with F1 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 F1 students is April 9, 2018.**

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 April 9.** This letter must be in English. The ELI does not make these requests for students; you must speak to your sponsor yourself.

Sponsored Students and Final Exams



Please note that if you are a sponsored student, and you miss your final exam for any reason, or if you fail the final exam, your sponsor will be notified immediately. Final exams in the ELI are worth 30% of the overall final grade, and both the ELI and your sponsors expect you to take the exams and to perform as well as you can on them. Remember, too, that satisfactory academic progress is a requirement of the F1 visa. If you fail courses, your F1 visa may be revoked. Please check the posted schedules for ELI final exams and plan your schedule accordingly.

F1 Students and End-of-Term Grace Period

The Department of Homeland Security requires 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.