



ELI NEWS

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

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TOEFL Prep Course at the ELI



Do you find yourself bored with nothing to do on Wednesdays? Are you worrying about that upcoming TOEFL exam? Well, the ELI has the perfect solution for both of these common problems: the ELI TOEFL Preparation Course!

The TOEFL Preparation Course is an intensive class that will meet on Wednesdays from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The class covers all aspects of the test. Module 1 covers Reading and Writing, and Module 2 covers Listening and Speaking. Each module is six weeks long. Space is limited. **Sign up in the ELI Main Office by June 1.** The cost is \$165 per module for students in the ELI's intensive program and \$200 per module for non-ELI students.

Please Note: The TOEFL Prep Class is open to anyone in Pittsburgh, but individuals wishing to take the TOEFL Prep Class must be in Levels 5 or 6 in the ELI (or have the equivalent fluency). For a complete description of these courses, along with textbook information and information about other special courses being offered this term, visit the ELI's web site at <http://www.eli.pitt.edu/programs/toefl-preparation-course>



www.facebook.com/PittELI

ELI Activity:

The Music of the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh and Bob Dylan

Join Ece in room M15 from 1:00-1:30 pm on Monday, June 4 to hear some examples of the music of both the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh and Bob Dylan. On Tuesday, June 5, the ELI will attend the Three Rivers Arts Festival. In addition to enjoying all of the art at the festival, we will also experience a special performance of the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh, who will be performing some of Bob Dylan's most famous songs.

The Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh usually sings classical music, such as the music of Beethoven and Mozart. However, sometimes they sing more modern pieces. Bob Dylan is an American song-writer and singer who is still alive today; however, his most popular songs were released in the 1960s. Come to the conference room on Monday to become more familiar with these artists and their music!

Forget to Join Talk Time?

By Brianne Harrison

If you missed registration for the Talk Time conversation groups, there is still a space available for you! Talk Time is a great opportunity for you to practice your listening and speaking, to make new friends, and to learn about American culture. Each small group of ELI students meets with a native speaker for one hour every week. Contact Brianne at elicom@pitt.edu (or visit office M-06) to sign up for a group today!

ELI Activity:

Pittsburgh Glass Center Hot Jam

Join us as the ELI goes to the Pittsburgh Glass Center in the East End of Pittsburgh on Friday, June 1. The Pittsburgh Glass Center is a nonprofit, public access school, gallery and state-of-the-art glass studio. It is dedicated to teaching, creating and promoting glass art.

Every month the PGC hosts an open house called Hot Jam. At this free event, you can watch live glassblowing demonstrations and also view contemporary glass art. It is fun for the entire family! This month's Hot Jam is even more special because it will include the opening reception for their new exhibition called Making the Ordinary Extraordinary.

On Friday, June 1, **meet in the lobby of the ELI at 5:00 pm** and we'll take the bus to the PGC. When we arrive, we will have time to explore the exhibition in the gallery on the main floor and then we will move to the 2nd floor to watch the glassblowing demonstrations. We will return to the ELI by 9 pm.

Check the Pittsburgh Glass Center's website www.pittsburghglasscenter.org for more information and to learn about the wide variety of classes they offer.



ELI Activity:

Titanic the Musical

Join the ELI on Friday, June 22, as we go to see the award-winning musical *Titanic*. A musical is a performance that is similar to a theater play but with the addition of singing and dancing. The performance is at the Benedum Center downtown and runs from 8 pm to approximately 11 pm.

Titanic the Musical is based on the true story of the *RMS Titanic*, a passenger ship that departed the UK for the USA in 1914. Many people called the ship “unsinkable.” Was it true? If you have seen the Hollywood movie based on this story, you probably know the answer!

You must pay the main office by 4:30 pm on Thursday, June 7. Discounted tickets are \$15 each. Please bring the exact amount. There are no refunds. If you have any questions, please email Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu.



ELI F1 Students and Employment in the U.S.

Please remember that ELI students with F1 visas do not have permission to work in the U.S. This includes both on-campus and off-campus jobs. Working without permission is a very serious violation of immigration rules, and ELI F1 students who work without SEVP approval will be terminated in SEVIS. Termination for unauthorized employment does not include a grace period, and students are required to leave the U.S. immediately. Please see Stacy if you have any questions about this rule.



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.



ELI Activity:

Three Rivers Arts Festival

Join the ELI on Tue., June 5, as we go downtown to the Three Rivers Arts Festival. This is a free 10-day outdoor music and arts festival. Meet at the ELI at 5:30pm, and we'll take the bus downtown together.

After walking around the festival, we'll go to Point State Park and watch a performance of the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh, who will perform the music of Bob Dylan. Read the article in this week's news about these two types of music. The concert ends at 9:00pm, but you can leave whenever you like!

Admission is FREE for everyone, but bring money for food or other purchases.

For more info, visit traf.trustarts.org.



ELI Absence Policy

There have been many questions about excused absences in the ELI. It is true that if you are sick, it is not **appropriate** for you to come to school—you may infect others, and it is **crucial** that you rest to get well. Please note, though, that the ELI attendance policy states that “**there is no such thing as an excused absence**” in the ELI. Even if you are sick, the absence must be counted as an absence according to the ELI rules.

According to the ELI absence policy, if you miss over 8 classes, you will not receive a certificate of attendance at the end of the term. If you miss over 12, you may not be invited back to the ELI next term. If you are an F-1 student and you miss over 15 classes, your visa may be terminated. Please see page 4 of your Student Handbook for more information on the ELI attendance policy. In addition, please remember that sponsored students have attendance rules from their sponsors, as well.

Remember that if you do not do the work in your classes and the homework, this will affect your grade. If you want to make progress with your language learning, it is important that you attend class on time, regularly, with your homework complete. Please see Stacy if you have any questions or concerns about attendance in the ELI.

Register for a Conversation Partner

By Brianne Harrison



Would you like to meet a native English speaker who wants to meet an international

student? This is a great opportunity for you to practice your English—and hopefully to make a new friend, too. Online registration for conversation partners is open until [May 31](#). At this time, I am only able to offer partners to ELI students in the intensive program. Thank you for your cooperation. Please see the front desk if you are interested.

Personal Belongings in Classrooms

We have noticed that many students leave their personal belongings in ELI classrooms during the lunch break each day. The ELI cannot guarantee the safety of your bags, laptops, or other items. Remember that it is always safest to keep your personal belongings with you, or locked in your ELI locker. If you leave your things in an ELI classroom during the lunch break, you are taking a chance that you may lose them. The classroom door may be locked when you leave, but please remember that many people have keys to those doors. The ELI cannot guarantee that the classroom will remain locked until you return. In addition, you should never leave your belongings alone in the ELI hallways, on a restaurant table, or in any other public place. It only takes a second for someone to take what is yours, so please be careful! If you would like to sign up for a locker, see the ELI main office

Fire Alarms at the ELI

Please be careful about setting off false fire alarms because this causes problems with the fire department. We would not want to have fire trucks at our building for a false alarm when they might be needed for a real emergency somewhere else.

Please remember the following:

- There are several square red alarms on the walls in our building. They call the fire department, and they are sensitive. Please be very careful with them. Do not lean on the wall next to them or touch them unless there is actually a fire.
- If the fire alarm goes off, leave the building and turn right on Meyran.
- Move calmly but quickly to the parking lot on the corner of Meyran and Sennott. **Walk on the sidewalks.**
- Do not stand in the hallways, doorways, or the in the middle of the street.
- Wait until a fireperson says it is ok to reenter the building.

Title IX Policy

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.

Coffee Talk on Fridays!

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



Probation at the ELI

As you know, consistent attendance, homework, and participation in classroom activities are all important for successful language learning. If you do not attend classes regularly and do the assigned work, your progress may be slow, and your grades may suffer.

In addition, students who do not make a good effort in their work will be put on probation. Students on probation must improve their effort during the probation term, or they may be expelled from the ELI. Sponsors will be notified of probation, as well. There are three ways to be put on probation at the ELI:

1. Having failing final grades in two or more classes
2. Having over 8 absences in two or more classes
3. Having over 15 absences in one or more classes

If you had poor grades and/or attendance last term, you will receive a probation letter. If you are sponsored, your sponsor will be notified that you are on probation, as well. If you have any questions about the probation policy at the ELI, please see Stacy.

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 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.

Mark your calendars! Upcoming ELI Activities



Friday, June 1: Pittsburgh Glass Center Hot Jam
Monday, June 4: The Music of Bob Dylan and the Mendelssohn Choir
Tuesday, June 5: Three Rivers Arts Festival
Friday, June 22: Titanic the Musical
Wednesday, June 27: ELI Picnic
Tuesday, July 10: Pittsburgh Pirates Baseball Game
Sunday, July 15: Pitt Day at Kennywood

Lateness

Please remember that the ELI Attendance policy states that a student will be considered absent if the student is over 5 minutes late for class. Your teachers do not have any flexibility with this policy; they must mark you absent if you are over 5 minutes late. Please be aware of your breaks between classes and come to class on time.



ELI Students and Pitt Email

ELI students MUST use Pitt email. Your teachers and the university will use ONLY your Pitt email to contact you. If you don't check your Pitt email every day, you may miss important messages about your class work, registration, or tuition payments. To check your email, visit my.pitt.edu and click on "My Pitt Email".

If you do not know your Pitt username or password, or you cannot access your account, visit one of the University computer labs in G-27 or G-62 of the Cathedral of Learning, 112 Hillman Library, or 1200 Wesley Posvar Hall.

Renters Insurance

Many of you rent apartments in Pittsburgh while you are studying at the ELI, and we want to strongly encourage you to buy renters insurance while you are here. Renters insurance covers personal property, so it will help you replace your items if they are lost due to theft or destruction from a fire or storm. Renters insurance can also cover damage that you may cause to your apartment. For example, if you accidentally start a fire in your apartment while you are cooking, there could be thousands of dollars worth of damage, and you may be expected to pay for the repairs. Renters insurance could cover the cost of these repairs. This type of insurance is very inexpensive, with an average cost of \$15.00 a month. You can check out some policy quotes at <https://www.geico.com/information/aboutinsurance/renters/> or at <https://www.statefarm.com/insurance/home-and-property/renters>. If you need help finding or buying insurance, please see Stacy.

Repeating Level 6 at the ELI

Many of you are making plans for your academic future here in the U.S. Please remember that ELI students are allowed to take only two semesters at level 6. After you complete two terms at level 6, you must transfer to another program if you want to stay in the U.S. The ELI cannot make exceptions to this rule, so please plan carefully.

Friday Prayer for Muslim Students

The ELI is aware that many of our Muslim students attend mosque on Fridays at 1:10. Of course, we want to assist you with this, so teachers will allow up to 20 minutes for Muslim students to return for the 2:00 class. If you are over 20 minutes late, though, teachers will have to count you as absent. If you are having a problem returning to class within 20 minutes, please see Stacy.

Free Lockers in the ELI

By Stacy Ranson

The ELI has a limited number of lockers available in our building. All students are eligible for free use of a locker, but you must sign up for a locker in the ELI main office, room M13. If you put a lock on a locker that you did not register, the lock will be removed.

To sign up for a locker:

- Buy a combination lock. Remember that the lock must be 25mm-30mm. Many locks are 50mm or bigger, and these are too big for the ELI lockers.
- Bring your lock to the ELI main office and give Rosemary or Erica the combination.
- You can then choose a locker.

Please remember to register for a locker if you would like to use one, because the ELI will remove locks that are not registered.

ELI Student Library

The student library is on the mezzanine floor outside of Stacy's office, M22. Students can borrow 1 book at a time for two weeks. You must write your name, book title, email address, and the date that you borrow and return the book on the sign out sheet. You can access the books when the ELI is open.

Most of the books are graded readers. A graded reader is a book with limited vocabulary and grammar structures, and is often a short version of a longer book. A graded reader is a good learning resource for ELI students because you read longer, connected texts at an appropriate level. If the vocabulary and grammar are simplified, you can focus on general reading comprehension.

There are a few novels and short story collections, too. If you want to read more authentic books, become a member of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. The Oakland branch is located very near the ELI. Use this link to get more information about becoming a member:

<http://www.clpgh.org/usingthelibrary/getcard.html>