



ELI NEWS

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

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ELI Pre-registration Spring 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 can check the last page of this week's ELI News for information on how and when to pay your tuition.

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.

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F-1 Students and Part Time Study

Students with F-1 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 F-1 students is December 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 December 4. This letter must be in English. The ELI does not make these requests for students; you must speak to your sponsor yourself.

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 December 7, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the Assembly 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!

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, December 11:

12:00–1:00 pm

Tuesday, December 12:

12:00–1:00 pm

Wednesday, December 13:

12:00–1:00 pm

First Day of Spring 2018 Term

Please remember that if you are planning to study at the ELI next term, the first day of official attendance is Friday, January 12, 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, January 19, you will need to wait until the next semester to attend the ELI. Please see Stacy if you cannot arrive by January 19.

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 December, you should request it by Monday, December 4. 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.

English Language Institute Final Exam Schedule Fall 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, Dec. 1	Monday, Dec. 4	Tuesday, Dec. 5
Writing final 10:00 am- 12:00 pm	Grammar final 10:00 am- 12:00 pm	Reading final 10:00 am- 12:00 pm
Speaking final 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Listening final 2:00 pm- 4:00 pm	

F- I Students and End-of-Term Grace Period

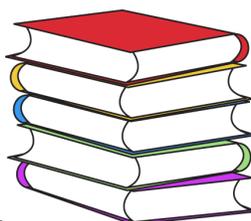
The Department of Homeland Security requires students to complete all levels of the ELI program in order to receive the 60-day grace period following the completion of study. This means that if you complete level 6 at the ELI, you will have 60 days after your last day of study to remain in the U.S or request a transfer to a new program.

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

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

ELI Spring Schedules and Book Swap

If you are continuing in the ELI for the spring term, you may pick up your new schedule in the ELI main office



any time after 12:00 pm on Thursday, January 11. Classes start Friday, January 12. The ELI will also make the Vault available to students on Thursday, January 11 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!

Mark your Calendars! Upcoming ELI Activities

Thursday, November 16: Hoopla!
Pitt Women's Basketball
Tuesday, November 21: Motown
the Musical

ELI Writing Contest

The ELI is holding a competition for students in all writing classes. There will be one winner in each level (2,3,4,5,6), and the winners will be announced at the closing ceremony.

If you have written a good composition in your writing class this semester, you should tell your writing teacher that you would like to enter it in the writing contest. Your teacher will then submit your paper for you. Your entry will be read anonymously by judges (your name will be removed from the paper, so they won't know who you are). The judges will choose the best composition from each level.

The deadline for entries is Tuesday, November 28 at 4:00 pm.

If you are in level 4, 5, or 6, your entry must be an essay that you wrote in class this semester. If you are in level 2 or 3, your entry can be a shorter composition, even a single paragraph. Each student can enter only one composition.

Good luck!

Thanksgiving Break

Remember that there are no classes November 23 and 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday! The ELI will be closed from Wednesday, November 22 at 1:00 pm to Sunday, November 26. Classes will be held as normal on Monday, November 27. Have a great break!



Address Updates

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.

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

Lose Something? Check the Lost and Found!

Did you forget a book in your classroom? Did you leave your gloves in the Vault? Do you think you left headphones in the computer lab? If you lost something at the ELI, please check the "Lost and Found" in the Main Office. Teachers and students routinely bring us things left behind in the classrooms. And if you found something that belongs to another student, please bring it to the Main Office so we can find its owner.

ELI F-I Students and Employment in the U.S.

Please remember that ELI students with F-I 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 F-I 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.



Transfer Process

Students with F-I 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.

Coffee Talk on Fridays!

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



Paying Tuition Spring 2018

You will be able to pay your tuition starting November 20. You should pay your tuition for the spring 2018 term before January 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 Activity:

Hoopla! Pitt Women's Basketball Reminder

If you emailed Ece to register for today's Hoopla! Pitt Women's Basketball event, you should be in the ELI lobby at 5:10pm to walk to the Petersen Events Center together. Dinner will be served at 5:30pm and the game begins at 7:00pm. The game will last approximately two hours, but you can leave anytime. If you have any questions, please contact Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu.



Motown the Musical Reminder

If you paid for a ticket to see Motown the Musical, please pick up your ticket on Monday or Tuesday. Ece will be in her office, M02, from 12:30-2:30 pm on Monday and from 1:30-2:30 pm on Tuesday. On Tuesday, November 21, we will leave from the ELI at 6:15 pm. You can also meet us downtown if you have your ticket, but please let Ece know when you pick up your ticket. The performance is at the Benedum Center downtown and runs from approximately 7:30 pm-10:00 pm. If you have any questions, please email Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu.

Light Up Night

Tomorrow is the annual Light Up Night in downtown Pittsburgh! The highlight of the evening is the lighting of Christmas trees around the city for the first time. The tree in PPG Plaza—the glass castle-looking building—will be lit at 5:30, while the “Unity Tree” at the corner of Stanwix St. and Penn Ave. will be lit at 7:00. A rooftop fireworks presentation will accompany the lighting of the “Unity Tree,” and there are performances and activities throughout the entire day! For more information, visit: <http://www.downtownpittsburghholiday.com>

An ELI Student Submission:

The Cabin by Khalid Farhan

This is a story about John, who is a famous writer. He has written many novels, most of which were successful. After he wrote the successful *The Sky and Sea* novel, he decided to write another novel, but this one he wanted to be more exciting. He was struggling for weeks finding new ideas, but he couldn't find any. His wife told him that he needs a quiet place to instigate his inspiration. A cabin for his grandfather is coming to his mind, a small cabin in the woods is a great place for meditation and inspiration. Two days later, he was driving to Indiana, where the cabin is located. Upon arriving, one

of the car tires was punctured, and he spent three hours to replace it. Arriving at the cabin, he noticed there was no electricity, so he checked the generator, which was turned off and was running out of fuel. Then he had to drive to the closest gas station to bring fuel. Having already finished four chapters in one week, he was focused on the story details. Since arriving in the woods, he did stop thinking and writing. So, he decided to take a rest and walk outside, enjoying the nature and breathing fresh air. Upon returning back to the cabin during the sunset, he saw something looking at him and he was confused about whether it was a deer or a kid. He didn't care and started a fire. While he was in the kitchen preparing his dinner, he heard the sound of the door opening, and he went out of the kitchen with a knife expecting a fight with a thief, but there was nothing. Finishing his meal, he started writing. This novel was about a man who is living on an island alone. Never had he written about this kind of novel, but there was an analogy about the story and his solitude. While he was swimming between the words, a strong voice of thunder and broken windows terrified him; it was the strongest thunderstorm he has ever seen. Rarely do strong storms hit this region of the country. John couldn't sleep that night. He went to sleep in the morning for a couple hours. Waking up at 10:00, he found that the food was stolen from the kitchen. Not only did the thief steal his food,

but also he stole his best friend, his laptop. This meant he had to find the laptop or all his tenacious work would be gone for nothing. He went out searching for the thief. Walking three hours, he found a camp where about 5 young people were. He walked closer to the camp and saw the five men's faces, one of whom he was acquainted with. He approached the camp and recognized one of the men. The man he identified was a robber who had stolen \$200,000 from the FBI in 1970, Dan Cooper. John couldn't believe himself. Suddenly, a heavy metal fell on him and he fell on the ground. A few hours later he woke up in a dark room tied to a wooden chair. He asked for help, but no one could hear him in the middle of nowhere. The two men took him to Dan Cooper, whose face was full of wrinkles. John thought this was the end - these bad guys were going to kill, then

Dan asked him whether he was an FBI agent. John was so scared to death he couldn't say a single sentence. A tall man with a scar on his face brought John's laptop and asked him to open it. After 10 minutes, a loud laugh came from Dan Cooper and he said to John, "You are John Robert the writer." Dan looked at John with a big smile and asked one of his friends to bring water and food for poor John. Finishing eating, he said to Dan, "Please let me go I'm not going to tell anybody." Dan said, "Don't worry, soon you will be at home. I read *The Sky and Sea* that you have written. I enjoyed read it with my wife in Mexico ten years ago. Actually, it's a phenomenal novel. I know you are a prodigious writer and I see curiosity in your eyes; thus, I want to make a deal with you. The deal is you have to write a book, but this one it will not be like any book you have written. Additionally, half of the money you earned, it will be mine. Here is your laptop, start now. In 1970 I was rich and a prisoner at the same time, I had the money, but I couldn't use it. The FBI and the police were looking for me everywhere. So, I decided to go outside the US. I went to my old friend Gonzales, who is a Mexican and smuggled me with money to Mexico. I lived there for 20 years, where I spent the best time in my life with Carolina, but the five years was the worst due to Caroline getting cancer. She was fighting like a soldier at the end, but she is gone. I felt pain and rage and I wish I had not stolen the money. Returning to the US., I went to Pennsylvania to a small village, where my aunt Sarah lives, with a new name and new start. While I was watching TV, I heard about a campaign for fighting cancer in Pittsburgh, I told myself this is it. Two days later, I was in Pittsburgh, where I gave the rest of the money that I had stolen to UPMC. I wish God would forgive me and this money could help cancer patients." Spending one week writing Dan Cooper's story, John was astonished about Dan's story and that he helped the cancer campaign. Publishing the new novel, John couldn't believe himself about the number of copies that sold. After six months, John returned to the cabin, where he met Dan Copper. He knocked on the door, but no answer. Then he opened the door and found a piece of paper on the table, on which was written a bank account number.
To be continued...