Welcome to Summer Semester 2018! This term we will do lots of fun activities and visit many exciting places where we can practice English, make friends, and have fun!

The ELI News is a weekly newsletter published by the ELI. It is usually given to students every Thursday in their first class. The ELI News contains important information and announcements that you'll need. You will also do activities with the ELI News in your Reading classes and perhaps other classes as well.

If you don’t have a 10 am class or are absent on a Thursday, you can get a copy of the ELI News in classrooms, on the shelf outside the main office in M13, and on the ELI’s Activities web page at http://www.eli.pitt.edu/life-pittsburgh/activities-outside-classroom

ELI Online Calendar

When does vacation start? When are our final exams? If you have questions about the ELI schedule for this term or future terms, remember to check the ELI calendar online: www.eli.pitt.edu/calendar.

ELI Activity:

Tour of Downtown, Station Square and Mt. Washington

Let’s explore the city! We’ll meet in the lobby of the ELI at 11 am on Saturday, May 12, and take the bus downtown. We’ll walk through the Cultural District and Market Square, where we will have lunch (everyone buys their own lunch). After that, we’ll catch the train to Station Square, a former train station that is now a shopping and entertainment complex. From there, we’ll take the incline up to the top of Mt. Washington where we’ll get some of the best city views you’ll ever see. We should be back to campus around 3 pm, but you’re free to leave any time you wish. Don’t forget, the bus, the train and the incline are all free with your Pitt student ID card!

If the weather is bad, we will go to Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Oakland instead. We will still meet in the lobby of the ELI at 11 am. The cost is $16.95 for students with ID.

ELI Activity:

Monday: Food, Friends, and Fun!

Join us on Monday, May 14 after classes for delicious food and a chance to get to know your classmates and teachers. We will meet at 4:00 pm in the ELI lobby, and we’ll walk to The Thirsty Scholar together.

The Thirsty Scholar is a restaurant in Oakland. The ELI will buy snacks, but students must pay for their own drinks. If you want to drink alcohol, you must be at least 21 years-old and have a government ID (passport or US driver’s license). If you purchase a beverage, you must add a tip for the bartender. It is customary to give a dollar for each drink. Refills on soft drinks are free; however, it is not necessary to tip for refills.

If you don’t meet us at the ELI, you can meet us there. The Thirsty Scholar is located at 3610 Fifth Ave. We will be in the room in the back of the restaurant. See you there!

Did you know:

“Pitt” is a short name for the University of Pittsburgh. Locals call the school “Pitt”, and you will see Pitt used all around campus and the city.

The ELI is open from 8:30 AM to 4:45 PM, Monday through Friday.

Visit the ELI NEWS online: http://www.eli.pitt.edu/GENINFO/activities/index.html
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.

Payments in the ELI

Payments can be made by cash, check, or money order by visiting the Student Payment Center in Room G-7 Thackeray Hall. Credit cards or debit cards are not accepted there. Remember, you may pay by eCheck online for free. This is an online transfer from a U.S. checking account into your Pitt account. To do this, log on to my.pitt.edu and select PittPay and click “Make Payment”. Students may also transfer money via Flywire. Online payments by credit card are available, but a 2.75% fee is assessed.

For more information about payment options, please visit the “Making Payments” page on the Student Payment Center’s website: http://payments.pitt.edu/online-payment-options/ You may also ask Erica or Rosemary in the ELI Main Office if you have any questions about registration or payment.

Withdrawal and Refund Policy

If you wish to drop one or more of your classes, you should immediately inform Rosemary or Erica in the ELI Main Office and the ELI Student Advisor, Stacy Ranson, in M22.

If you drop courses before the end of the ELI Add/Drop period on Monday, May 21, you will receive a full refund. This check will be mailed to your home mailing address. This takes approximately 2 weeks.

If you drop courses after the ELI Add/Drop period on May 21, you will NOT receive a refund.

Health Insurance Requirements

The ELI requires all students to show proof of health insurance coverage. The ELI does not recommend or offer specific health insurance plans. Students may choose any hospital insurance plan they like, and the ELI will request a copy of the insurance card with the student’s name. Students who do not provide proof of health insurance for the Summer 2018 term by 12:00 pm on Monday, May 21 will not be permitted to register for classes. Please see Stacy if you have any questions or need help finding insurance.

Mark your calendars!
Upcoming ELI Activities

Saturday, May 12: City Tour
Monday, May 14: Food, Friends, and Fun!
Saturday, May 19: Origami at the Library
Wednesday, May 23: Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium
Friday, June 1: Pittsburgh Glass Center
Hot Jam
Tuesday, June 5: Three Rivers Arts Festival
Wednesday, June 27: ELI Picnic
Sunday, July 15: Pitt Day at Kennywood

Medical Emergencies in the ELI

It is the ELI policy that any time an ELI student shows signs of a serious medical issue, ELI staff and faculty must call 911 for medical assistance. For example, if a student complains of the symptoms of a heart attack, the ELI will call an ambulance. In a medical emergency, the first priority of the ELI is always the well-being of its students, and 911 will be called even if the ill student protests or is not insured. Ambulance rides can cost from $400 to over $1000, depending on the kind of care the crew must provide and the distance traveled. Patients are responsible for the cost. This means that you—not the ELI—must pay for the ambulance, even if an ELI teacher or employee called for the ambulance. Please keep this in mind when you are considering your health insurance options in the United States.

Joining Pitt Student Organizations

Studying English is important, but so are: working on your English outside of class, meeting other people, and enjoying your life in Pittsburgh. Consider joining a student organization at Pitt. You can learn more about student organizations online at pitt.edu. There are student associations related to hobbies, sports interests, field of study, social issues, ethnicity, and more!

Follow this chain to get to a list of student organizations from the Pitt website: Student Life>Student Affairs>Student Organizations & Resources>Clubs/Organizations>Student Organization Directory. There are more than 550 organizations, but you don’t need to read the entire list. You can use the search feature to narrow your focus. For example, “international” had 20 results. Or you can use the categories filter. For example, in the “Ethnic / Cultural category,” there were 63 results.

Once you find a group that interests you, click on it to learn more. In addition to a description of the club, you can find a “primary contact” whom you can e-mail to learn more about the group or to find out what they’re up to.

Visit the ELI NEWS online: http://www.eli.pitt.edu/GENINFO/activities/index.html
Pitt Emergency Alert System
By Stacy Ranson

It is very important that ELI students know when there is an emergency on campus. For this reason, all ELI students must sign up for the Emergency Notification System that is provided by the University of Pittsburgh. This system will contact you by phone, email, or text, to tell you when there is an emergency on campus.

When there is an emergency, you should follow the directions from the system notification, your teacher, and any police officers in the area. Unless the alert, or a police officer, tells you to leave, you should remain in the Oakland area, even if the evacuation is long. The ELI always holds classes when the alert is finished. If you miss classes after we return to the building, you will be counted as absent. Always wait for notification that it is safe to enter the building before you come back to the building.

To subscribe to the Pitt Emergency Notification System:
- Log in to my.pitt.edu
- Click on “My Resources” at the top of the page
- Click on “Emergency Notification"
- Enter your phone number and check whether you would like a voice message or text
- Click “Submit”

It is very easy to sign up and only takes a minute. Please sign up today!

What do you like to do?

If you like to cook, play tennis, take pictures—or anything at all—the ELI can help you connect with others at the University or in the Pittsburgh community that share your interests. E-mail elicomm@pitt.edu if you are interested in joining a student group at Pitt or a community group in the area.

Smoking Near the Parkvale Building

Please note, smoking is not allowed in front of the Parkvale Building doors. Signs outside say “No smoking within 15 feet of the entrance to this building”, and ELI students are expected to follow this rule. The smoke carries into the building and disturbs other students and offices. Moreover, it is illegal to smoke within 15 feet (approximately 4.5 meters) of a university building entrance. There is an ashtray in the alley for students to use, between the Parkvale Building and the Meyran Ave. parking garage.

Please remember to be a good neighbor and throw away your trash and your cigarette butts.

Talk Time Conversation Groups

Talk Time is a conversation group that meets for one hour each week. Each group includes a native English speaker and a group of about 4-5 ELI students. Joining a Talk Time conversation group is a great way to practice listening and speaking as well as to learn about culture!

Look in next week’s ELI News for details about how to register for a Talk Time group!

Conversation Partners

The Conversation Partners program pairs ELI students with native English speakers. It’s a great chance for each person to make a new friend and learn about another culture in English. Your partner may want to practice your language, too. Look for more details about registering for a conversation partner in future issues of the ELI News!

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

Sponsorship Letters

If you have an official sponsorship letter from your government (SACM or CBIE, for example) you must submit it to Rosemary or Erica in the ELI Main Office. Students must give an updated sponsor letter to the ELI and to the Student Payment Center each term. If you have any questions about this, please visit the ELI Main Office.

All sponsored students also must complete an information sheet in the ELI Main Office. The ELI must contact sponsors throughout the term, and we require updated information about the student’s sponsor and advisor. Students must complete this form each semester and when their sponsor information changes.

Visit the ELI NEWS online: http://www.eli.pitt.edu/GENINFO/activities/index.html
I-94 Numbers Required

Each student must give the ELI Main Office his or her I-94 admission number by 4:00 pm Monday, May 21. To find your DHS I-94 admission number:

1. Go to http://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html
2. Click “Yes” and “Submit”.
3. Enter information exactly as it is on your visa.
4. Click “Get Most Recent I-94”.
5. Print the page with your admission number.
6. Bring the printed page to the ELI Main Office by 4:00 pm, May 21.

What Can You Do With a Student ID Card?

Did you know that your Pitt student ID card gives you free access to transportation, the student computing labs, and libraries? With your valid Pitt ID you can also get discounted rates on museum visits too! Here are some of the resources available to you when you carry your Pitt student ID.

**Museums:** Discounted ticket prices at the Andy Warhol Museum, The Mattress Factory, the Carnegie Museum of Art and Natural History, and the Carnegie Science Center.

**Computing Labs:** Free use of the computing labs throughout campus, including Hillman Library and the Cathedral of Learning.

**Transportation:** Free use of Pittsburgh city buses, the Duquesne Inclining, as well as University of Pittsburgh shuttles around campus.

Volunteering in Pittsburgh

A volunteer is a person who freely completes a task. When people “volunteer” in the community, they offer to do something to help others. Often, though, volunteers “get” as well as “give.” Through volunteering, you could get the chance to meet new people, practice speaking English, learn other skills, gain self-confidence, and more! Look for information about how to access the PittServes Volunteer Portal and about upcoming volunteer opportunities in the city of Pittsburgh in upcoming editions of the ELI News!

ELI Students and Pitt Email

ELI students MUST use Pitt email. Your teachers and the university will use ONLY Pitt email to contact you. If you don’t check your Pitt email every day, you may miss important messages about your classes, 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, please read the orange paper in your orientation folder (or get a new orange paper in our computer lab). This will give you instructions on how to activate your email address this week.

Play Soccer or Softball!

Meet new people, practice your English, and get some exercise all at the same time! The University of Pittsburgh’s Intramural Sports Program is open to all students at Pitt—including ELI students.

The sports that are offered this term are indoor soccer and softball. If you are interested in starting a team, the ELI can show you how to begin. Registration closes soon, so contact elicomm@pitt.edu for assistance. For more information, go to: http://www.imleagues.com/spa/intramural/d0682aa310d141a78e1d1b58ac087184/home.

Meet Point Park University Students in May and June!

Are you interested in meeting with native speakers of English? If so, you can meet students at Point Park University (PPU). Students in EDUC 250 (a PPU class) want to meet English language learners. You and your PPU partner will meet several times (not weekly but 6-8 hours in total) from mid-May to mid-June as well as attend a group activity at PPU. If you are interested in getting to know a PPU student, contact Community Outreach at elicomm@pitt.edu.

For your information: ELI students can have PPU partners and still join the ELI Conversation Partners program, too. They are different programs, and ELI students can meet native speakers in each!

New Student Checklist

Did you remember to:

☐ Activate your Pitt email address?
☐ Get your student ID card?
☐ Update your mailing address?
☐ Give a copy of your financial guarantee to the main office?
☐ Buy your textbooks?
☐ Register for a locker?

Please visit the ELI Main Office or talk to one of your teachers if you have any questions about these steps!