Proof of Health Insurance: Deadline has Passed!

All ELI students must provide proof of health insurance in order to enroll in classes. The ELI does not recommend any specific insurance plan or company; you may choose the plan and insurance company that is best for you. Many of our students use ISO insurance at www.isoa.org or International Student Insurance at www.internationalstudentinsurance.com, but you may choose any company.

Bring your insurance card, or a printout from the insurance website that shows that you have bought a plan, to the ELI main office. You may also email your proof of insurance to elipitt@pitt.edu.

The ELI is extending the original insurance deadline. If you have not already submitted it, you must provide proof of health insurance by 12:00 pm on Thursday, September 21, or your ELI registration will be canceled. Stacy is available to help with buying insurance. Email her at sar72@pitt.edu to make an appointment if you need assistance.

Pittwire

Want to find out what’s happening at Pitt? Then check out Pittwire. Pittwire is a web-based news and events source for the University of Pittsburgh.

Pittwire homepage https://www.pittwire.pitt.edu/

Pittwire events
https://www.pittwire.pitt.edu/events

ELI Activity:

Baseball Game

Get Your Ticket

If you purchased a Pirates ticket, you must pick up your ticket from Ece in M02 from 1:30-2:00 on Tuesday, September 26. On Tuesday, September 26, we’ll meet at 5:30 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.

Please note that there are no refunds. Whether it rains or pours, we must go to the game. The ballpark does not issue refunds. If the game is cancelled due to rain, we can exchange our tickets for another day. Baseball games are usually not cancelled in advance, so we must go to the game.

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.

If you would like to leave your books in your locker on Tuesday, you can get them on Wednesday. The ELI is open from 8:30 am-4:45 pm.

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.

FREE SMALL-GROUP TUTORING OPPORTUNITY

by Dr. Dawn E. McCormick
ELI Associate Director

Graduate students at Pitt who are learning to be English teachers must work with volunteer students as part of their graduate course called “Second Language Teaching.” The graduate students act like tutors, helping pairs or trios of students with extra language learning practice for speaking, listening, reading, writing, vocabulary, and pronunciation (not TOEFL, IELTS, GRE, or SAT preparation). The tutoring is free, but you must spend 10 hours or more with the graduate-student tutor this semester. The tutor will want to learn a little about you and how you’ve learned English, will work to understand your strengths and weaknesses, and will ask you what you’d like to learn. Then, the tutor will plan lessons and meet with your group.

If you are an ELI student in levels 4, 5, or 6 and would like to volunteer to work with one of these graduate students, please email me from you Pitt account and provide your name, gender, ELI level and first language:

Visit the ELI NEWS online: www.eli.pitt.edu/eli-news
Dr. Dawn E. McCormick
Office M20
mccormic@pitt.edu
412.624.5902

Deadline: Noon, September 25, 2017
Remember: You must be willing to meet with the tutor for a minimum of 10 hours. Test-preparation (e.g., TOEFL, IELTS, GRE, SAT) is not possible. Other ELI students will be part of your tutoring group.

Meeting for New F-1 Students

If you are a new F-1 student at the ELI, you must participate in a short meeting about your F1 visa status. The meeting will be located in the Room M15 on Monday, September 25 from 1:00-1:15 pm, or from 3:00-3:15. You must attend one of these meetings. The focus of the meeting will be:

- Rules to follow to keep your immigration status legal
- Benefits you are allowed to have as an F-1 student, such as vacation term

If you are a sponsored student and you do not attend this meeting, your sponsor will be notified.

ELI Activity:

NBA Basketball Game

Join the ELI as we travel to Cleveland, Ohio to see the Cleveland Cavaliers take on the Atlanta Hawks on Sun., Nov. 5. We’ll board our bus on the corner of 5th Avenue and Bigelow Boulevard (near the Cathedral) at 9:15 am.

It takes about 3 hours to get to Cleveland from Pittsburgh. The game begins at 3:00pm. We will depart Cleveland around 6:00pm and arrive in Pittsburgh around 9:00pm. Please plan your ride home before this day. Buses operate on a limited schedule on Sundays.

Check the flyers around the ELI for pricing information. The deadline for payment has been extended to Friday, September 29. Please sign up and pay in the main office. Bring exact change, cash only. There are no refunds.

If you have any questions, please email Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu.

ELI Activity:

ELI Trip to Niagara Falls

Space Available!

If you missed the deadline for the Niagara Falls trip, you might still have a chance to join us! Contact Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu to learn about availability.

We will depart the University on Saturday, September 30 at 9 am and return on Sunday, October 1 around 8 pm. We need at least 30 students for this trip. The tour includes:

- Roundtrip bus transportation
- One night at a hotel near the Falls (4 students per room, 2 students per bed)
- Tour of the Cave of the Winds at the bottom of the Falls
- Boat ride at the bottom of the Falls on the Maid of the Mist
- Buffet lunch at Anchor Bar in Buffalo, New York (the home of the original buffalo chicken wings) Other meals during the trip are NOT included in the price.

You are welcome to invite a friend, but no children please. We will be walking A LOT.

The cost is $235 per person (4 students in a room, two students per bed) or $280 (2 students in a room, 1 student per bed). Email Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu if you have any questions.

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.

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 October 3. 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.

Student Advisor Office Hours

Please remember that Stacy Ranson, your
Student Advisor, can help you with questions about your registration and classes, academic issues, letters of recommendation, and personal issues, as well. Feel free to stop by her office in M22 during any of her office hours. You can also email her at sar72@pitt.edu.

**Stacy’s office hours are:**

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
  - 1:00 pm-1:45 pm
  - 3:00 pm-3:30 pm
- Friday
  - 1:00 pm-1:45 pm

**ELI Activity:**

**GlobalPittsburgh Picnic at Frick Park**

GlobalPittsburgh is having a picnic to welcome new international students to Pittsburgh on Sat., Sept. 23, from 1 pm to 4 pm at the Forbes Ave & Braddock Ave Pavilion in Frick Park. Please note that this activity is to welcome new international students; however, anyone can attend. There will be over 200 GlobalPittsburgh members and globally-minded people at the picnic. The day will be filled with family-friendly activities and games. Food will be available for purchase. This is a great way to enjoy the fall weather in a beautiful park and meet new people.

Admission is free, but you must register in advance at [http://tinyurl.com/GPPicnic2017](http://tinyurl.com/GPPicnic2017). On the day of the picnic, meet Ece at the ELI at 12 pm to take the bus to Frick Park together. You can also meet us there. For more information about GlobalPittsburgh, visit their website at [www.globalpittsburgh.org](http://www.globalpittsburgh.org).

**Sponsorship Letters**

If you have an official sponsorship letter from your government (SACM or CBE, for example) you must submit it to Abe or Anthony in the ELI Main Office. Students must give an updated sponsorship 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.

**Coed Group Work in the ELI**

As you already know, students at the ELI work together in pairs and small groups during almost every class. Interacting in pairs and small groups is an important part of language learning. Please remember that ELI teachers will not be able to form separate groups for men and women during classroom activities. Separating men and women limits the amount of interaction that women at the ELI receive. In order to best serve all of our students and their language development, we must maximize interaction during class time.

Remember, if you are planning to move on to academic work in the U.S., men and women will be expected to work together without question, so your ELI experience will be a good opportunity to practice in this situation if it makes you uncomfortable.

If you would like to talk more about this policy, please contact Stacy at sar72@pitt.edu or visit her in her office in M22.

**Community Outreach: Register TODAY for a Talk Time Conversation Group!**

Registration for Talk Time will take place in the Conference Room (M-15) TODAY from 12:30 to 2:00 PM. Stop by during your lunch break! Talk Time groups will start meeting from M, September 25th. Please email the Community Outreach Coordinator (Suzanne) at elicomm@pitt.edu if you would have questions or need more information about Talk Time.

Talk Time groups are for fun and informal communication; they are not classes. Groups are usually scheduled in ELI classrooms, and meeting times are typically at 1:00 or 4:00 on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays. ELI students register for a group and meet with that group once a 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 more about culture!
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.

Community Outreach: Get Involved at Pitt with APO

Alpha Phi Omega (APO) is a coed service fraternity at Pitt, which means that they are a group of students who work together to help others. This week, APO is holding an event called Pay It Forward. They will meet to write notes of encouragement and positivity for others to hand out on campus. ELI students are invited to attend, get to know APO members, and learn more about future APO activities.

The event will be held on Friday, September 22nd at 4:00 in the Cathedral of Learning, Rm. 230. Please attend. APO members are looking forward to meeting and volunteering with ELI students!

ELI Storytellers

One of the benefits of studying at the ELI is the chance to meet and learn from people with diverse backgrounds and experience. The ELI Storytellers Series gives students an opportunity to share their stories with classmates. Speakers give a 10-15-minute presentation, followed by a question and answer period. The talks are scheduled during the 1:00 lunch break. The series is open to all ELI students, and it is a great way to get extra speaking and listening practice outside of class. Your English doesn’t have to be perfect! This is a great opportunity to challenge yourself and share your story with your friends, teachers and classmates. How about you? Do you have an interest or a skill you would like to tell us about? Have you accomplished something special or done something fun and exciting? Would you like to share information about your culture or hometown? What is your story? If you are interested in giving a short presentation, email Heather at hlm44@pitt.edu

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 don’t need to 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

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.

ELI Emergency Phone Number

The ELI has an emergency phone number for students to use in medical or legal emergencies. The number is (412) 545-3541. Please take a moment to add this to the contacts in your phone. This number is only to be used evenings and weekends, during times that the ELI main office is closed. Please note that this is an emergency number. You should only call this number if you have a serious medical or legal issue, and you need
help. It is also possible that Stacy may not be able to answer the phone immediately when you call. If you get the voicemail, leave a clear message with your name, phone number, and emergency. Stacy will return your call.

**Mark your Calendars!**

**Upcoming ELI Activities**

**Saturday, September 23:**
GlobalPittsburgh Picnic

**Tuesday, September 26:**
Pirates Game

**Saturday, September 30-Sunday, October 1:**
ELI Trip to Niagara Falls

**Monday, October 16:**
International Speedfriending

**Friday, October 27:**
Halloween Party

**Sunday, November 5:**
NBA Cavs Game

**Saturday, November 18:**
ELI Brunch

**Tuesday, November 21:**
Motown the Musical

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