



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 February 6.**

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>.

New I-20s for F-1 students

If you are a new F-1 student in the ELI, please see the ELI main office for your new I-20. You have a new copy of the I-20 that shows that you have registered for classes and are living in the US legally. This is the document that proves that you have enrolled in school, so you must pick up the updated copy for your records.

ELI F-1 Students and Employment in the U.S.

Please remember that ELI students with F-1 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-1 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.

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, Friday
1:00 pm-2:00 pm

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 Activity:

ELI Trip to Washington, DC



If you want to join the ELI on March 9-11 for an exciting trip to Washington, DC, **you must pay the main office by 4:30pm, today,**

Thursday, February 1! We will depart the University on Friday, March 9 at 8:30 am and return on Sunday, March 11 around 9 pm.

The cost of this trip is \$250 per person (based on 4 people per room with 2 people sharing each bed). You can choose your roommates, or the ELI will choose for you. If you would like to have a maximum of 2 people per room (one person per bed), the cost is \$300. However, if you choose this option, you must also choose your roommate. The trip includes:

- roundtrip transportation in university vans
- hotel accommodations for 2 nights
- a ticket to The Spy Museum (www.spymuseum.org)
- a night tour of the monuments in university vans
- visits to other museums and landmarks based on student interest

This price doesn't include any meals. You are welcome to invite a friend, but no children please. **We will be walking A LOT.**

Please pay in the main office and **bring the exact amount**, cash only. There are no refunds. Email Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu for more details.

Language Music Club

Do you enjoy listening to music in English? Do you ever try to understand the lyrics? Do you enjoy singing along to songs? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then the Language Music Club is for you! The main objective of this club is to have fun practicing English in a musical environment! The meetings of the Language Music Club will include a variety of activities, including focusing on the grammar and vocabulary used in lyrics as well as practicing pronunciation and fluency. We will also have discussions on what these songs mean.

The Language Music Club will meet every Monday at 1:00 pm in Room M15. This room is next to the main office. The first meeting was on Monday, January 29. If you miss the first meeting, don't worry! You can drop in anytime! No musical talent is required. All you need is a desire to improve your English! For more information or to make song suggestions, please email Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu.

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, and patients without health insurance will be responsible for the entire cost of ambulance service. This means that you-not the ELI- must pay for the ambulance, even if an ELI teacher or employee called for the ambulance. The ELI requires that students buy health insurance, which may pay for part of the ambulance service, depending on your coverage.

ELI Storytellers Series



One of the benefits of studying at the ELI is the chance to meet and to learn from people with diverse backgrounds and experiences. 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

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.

ELI Activity:

Hollywood Special Effects Show Reminders

There are 35 of us going to see the Hollywood Special Effects Show at the Byham Theater downtown on Monday, February 5 at 7:30pm! Please be aware that this show uses a wide variety of effects. These effects may include, but are not limited to: strobe lighting, smoke and haze, airbursts, and gun flashes.



On Monday, February 5, please pick up your ticket from Ece in M02 from 1:00-1:30 pm or 4:00-4:10 pm. We will leave from the ELI at 6:15pm. You can also meet us at the show, but please tell Ece when you pick up your ticket.

Leave big bags in your locker at the ELI! No one will be admitted into the Byham with bags larger than 16" x 16" x 8" (inches). This is the size of a small backpack. The show will finish around 8:45pm. If you have any questions, please email Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu.

English Language Institute 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	

Useful Idioms

By Carol Harmatz

Lately I've been hearing these two idioms a lot when listening to the news:

1. **back in the day:** The Longman Dictionary defines this phrase as "a long time ago, when you were much younger". For example, "Her parents didn't have to worry about forgetting their cellphones back in the day." (They didn't worry about them because they didn't HAVE cellphones!!!) How about your parents? What was important to them back in the day? (It's probably not as important to them now.)

2. **at the end of the day:** The Longman Dictionary defines this phrase as "used to give a final opinion after considering all the possibilities". For example, "She thought about getting a car for a long time, but at the end of the day she decided that she didn't have enough money." Think about a decision that you had to make. What did you decide at the end of the day? Was it a good decision?

[www.ldoceonline.com].

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 legal 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.



Follow Us on Twitter!
Follow us on Twitter at @UPITT_ELI

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.

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.

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.

ELI Activity:

Snow Tubing



Join the ELI on Saturday, February 24, as we travel to Boyce Park to go snow tubing! Even though it's winter, and

you might want to stay inside where it's warm, we should exploit every opportunity to try winter sports in Pittsburgh!

On February 24, we will meet at the ELI at 1:00 pm. Be sure to check the bus schedules to campus, as they are slightly different on Saturdays. We'll take university vans to the park, which is approximately 35 minutes from the University. Once we arrive at Boyce Park, we will have 2 hours to enjoy tubing. We will return to Pittsburgh around 6:00pm.

You must register and pay for this activity in advance. The price is \$30, which includes 2 hours of snow tubing and roundtrip transportation in university vans. Space is limited to 20 passengers. ELI students studying in the Intensive Program get first priority. Sign up and register soon! The main office will begin collecting money on Friday, February 2. **The deadline to pay is 4:30pm on Thursday, February 15.** Please bring the exact amount. There are no refunds.

If you have your own transportation and would like to meet our group at Boyce Park, email Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu, and she will send you the link for purchasing tickets.

ELI Emergency Phone Number



The ELI has an emergency phone number for students to use in medical or legal emergencies. The number is (412) 444-8280. 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.

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. Do not lean on the wall next to them or touch them unless there is 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 or the in the middle of the street.
- Wait outside until a firefighter says it is ok to reenter the building.

Coffee Talk

You might be reluctant to do anything after your last class of the week. You might be inclined to just go home, but on Fridays from 4:00–6:00 pm come to **Coffee Talk!** Other individuals from the ELI can participate in open conversation at Panera (on Forbes Avenue). This is a way for us to relax, build community, identify potential friends, practice English, and more.



There are just a few rules.

1. The objective of Coffee Talk is to practice English, so please do not use your native language during this activity (others will chastise you if you do).

2. Because Panera does not ask us to pay for the room, please buy something to eat or drink, even just a cup of coffee or tea. (Frugality is not a problem.)

There is no better resource to assist you with your language progress than a place to just speak English, and Coffee Talk is your place. See you tomorrow!

Activities at Pitt

The ELI likes to plan extracurricular activities for students to get a chance to practice their English, explore the many social and cultural events in the city, and have fun.

In addition to the activities that we plan, there are several other organizations on campus that plan activities and events for all students at Pitt. These activities provide another great opportunity for you to practice your English outside of the classroom, and you can also make friends at Pitt. Unlike ELI activities, however, these events are for Pitt students only; guests are not permitted, and teachers cannot attend.

One of the organizations on campus is called the **Pitt Program Council**. This group plans entertainment, social recreational, and educational activities for all Pitt students. You can find more information at <http://ppc.pitt.edu/>, but most of their events are posted on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pitt.program.council/>.

Some of the events they have planned include a trip to see a Cleveland Cavaliers NBA game, Do-It-Yourself Sushi Night, FREE flower arranging for Valentine's Day, and much more!

The other campus organization is called **Pitt Global Ties**, which plans entertainment, recreational, social, and educational activities that are designed to welcome international students to Pitt and to promote interaction between international students and American students.

You can find more information about the organization at <https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/ccld/international/>. Check their facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Pitt.GlobalTies/> for upcoming activities, including a trip to Denver, Colorado, and more!

If you remember, all students at Pitt are required to pay a "Student Activities Fee". You paid \$24 for this when you paid your tuition this term. This money is used to partially fund, or subsidize, the activities that the Pitt Program Council and Pitt Global Ties offer. Because of this, the price you pay for activities they plan is very cheap! Because activities planned by the ELI are only for ELI students and

sometimes their guests, our activities are not subsidized and students pay the full price.

We hope you take advantage of these opportunities to have fun, make friends with students at Pitt, and practice your English outside of the classroom.

Transfer Process

Students with F-1 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.

Mark your calendars! Upcoming ELI Activities

Monday, February 5: Hollywood Special Effects Show

Tuesday, February 6: Language Music Club

Tuesday, February 13: Valentine's Day Cards and Crafts

Tuesday, February 20: Handwriting Class

Saturday, February 24: Snow Tubing

Tuesday, February 27: International Speed Friending

Friday, March 9-Sunday, March 11: Trip to Washington, DC

Saturday, March 17: ELI Night

Friday, March 23: Pitt Night at the Opera: Moby Dick

Saturday, April 7: Pirates Game

