



ELI NEWS

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

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Repeating Level 6 at the ELI

By Stacy Ranson

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 Absence Policy

By Stacy Ranson



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.

Change! F1 Students and End-of-Term Grace Period

Beginning summer, 2017, the Department of Homeland Security will require 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.

The Little Mermaid

On Wed., June 14 we'll go to see the live musical production of Disney's The Little Mermaid at the Benedum Center in downtown Pittsburgh. Discounted group tickets are \$15 each (regular \$20.75 plus tax and service fees). Our seats will be in rows P, Q, and R in the balcony. Feel free to invite your family and friends! Rob will collect money in his office in M18 until 2 pm on Friday, May 26. Please bring the exact amount. There are no refunds.



On the day of the performance, we will meet at the ELI at 7:00 pm, then take the bus downtown together. The performance starts at 8 pm. Come fall in love with the magic for the first time—or all over again with classics such as “Under the Sea,” “Kiss the Girl,” “Part of Your World” and more! Disney's THE LITTLE MERMAID is produced by Pittsburgh CLO.

ELI F-1 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.

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.

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.

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.

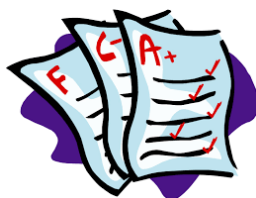
Please remember the following:

- 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 okay to reenter the building.

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.

Transfer Process

Students with F1 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.

Prayer Rooms Summer 2017

The ELI can provide the following rooms for prayer:

Rooms 110 and 111:
1:00-1:45 pm,
Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday

If you plan to use these rooms, you must read and follow the rules below. **Please note that if any of these rules are broken, the prayer room will no longer be available.**

- ❖ Rooms are available only for the times listed.
- ❖ Students must finish prayer at the times listed. The teachers of the 1:00 and 2:00 classes must be able to prepare before the class begins. If the teacher ever has to wait for students to finish praying, rooms will be removed from the schedule immediately.
- ❖ Students may not pray in the hallways, locker room, or anywhere in the ELI building.

New I-20's for F-1 Students

If you are a new F1 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 Activity:

Cirque Du Soleil

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL.



If you are one of the 20 students who purchased a ticket to see Cirque du Soleil with the ELI today (May 25), you can get your

tickets from Rob in his office in M18. We'll meet in the lobby of the Parkvale Building today at 6:45 and walk to the Petersen Events Center together. It takes approximately 15 minutes to walk there, but we'll have to go through security when we enter the building. The performance begins at 7:30. The show is two and half hours long, including a 30-minute intermission.

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 elicomm@pitt.edu (or visit office M-06) to sign up for a group today. The groups will begin meeting next week!



Baseball Game



Join the ELI as we cheer for the Pittsburgh Pirates when they take on the Marlins on Thurs., June 8, at 7:05

pm. Everyone in our group will get a Pirates Cap! Tickets are \$20 each and will be in the Grandstand (with a view of the game and the skyline!). Rob will collect money in M18 until 2 pm on Friday, May 26. If you purchase your ticket after May 26, you will not be able to get the group discount and your seats will not be with our group. Please bring the exact amount, cash only. Feel free to buy a ticket for a friend, too, even if they are not in the ELI. There are no refunds and no cancellations. Baseball games are rarely cancelled because of weather. Even if it rains, we will still go to the game.

Recycling in the Student Lounge and Kitchen

At the ELI we want to try and be as nice to our planet as we can be. This includes recycling. Things that are recyclable are paper, plastic, aluminum or steel cans, glass, and cardboard. Make sure to place all your recyclables such as cans, bottles, and paper in the blue bin next to the trashcan in the kitchen. There are signs to also help you. Please make sure to only put recyclables in the recycling bin, and put all other trash into the trashcan as normal.

How to Volunteer in Pittsburgh

by Brianne Harrison

If you are interested in helping people while also developing new skills and practicing English, learn how to become a volunteer at the PittServes Portal Workshop. The workshop will be held at 4:00pm on Thursday, June 1, in the Computer Lab (103). During the workshop, you can learn how to search and sign up for volunteer activities in Pittsburgh. Attending the workshop will

provide you with information about the process; you aren't required to sign up as a volunteer during the workshop.) For questions or additional information, please contact Brianne at elicomm@pitt.edu.

Pittsburghese Word of the Week: "The O"

Meaning: Essie's Original Hot Dog Shop on Forbes Avenue, a popular destination for late night food.

Example: "Hey, do yinz want to stop by The O on our way back?"

Local Sports: Pittsburgh Penguins vs Ottawa Senators

Today, May 25, the Pittsburgh Penguins take on the Ottawa Senators in the final game of the NHL Conference finals. Both teams are tied 3-3 going into tonight's game. Whoever wins tonight's game continues on to the Stanley Cup finals, which the Penguins won last year! Let's hope they can bring home another win for Pittsburgh sports. There will be a lot of exciting events going on around town if they win again!



Let's go Pens!

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