IEP:

ELI IEP Short Class
Schedule: August 5

On the last day of classes, the ELI offers a short class schedule so that you can attend for 15 minutes to review your final exams. Because the classes are only 15-minute sessions, the times are different than your normal class times. Please see the schedule below to find the correct times for your final class day. Your teachers will send you a Zoom invitation for this session.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaking 4J/5P/6T</th>
<th>10:00-10:15 a.m.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Listening 4J, 6T, Grammar 5P</td>
<td>10:20-10:35 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar 4J, 6T, Listening 5P</td>
<td>10:40-10:55 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing 4J/5P/6T</td>
<td>11:00-11:15 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading 4J/5P/6T</td>
<td>11:20-11:35 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELI Closing Ceremony</td>
<td>12:00-1:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IEP:

ELI Closing Ceremony: August 5

We know you are all looking forward to relaxing after the end of the term, and we hope that before you begin your break, you will join us at a virtual ELI Closing Ceremony to celebrate your hard work and accomplishments. We will give awards and announce the ELI Writing Contest winners, so we hope you all can make it! The ceremony is on August 5, from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Please check your Pitt email for your Zoom invitation from Stacy for this event.

Also, if you have any pictures from this term that you would like to share with everyone for the ELI Closing Ceremony presentation, please send them to Stacy at sar72@pitt.edu. Anything that might represent your term at the ELI and in Pittsburgh during this time, so how you studied, how you coped with remote learning, or things that gave you joy, would be great!

IEP:

Pre-registration for Fall 2021 Term

If you are interested in taking ELI classes for the Fall 2021 term, please send Stacy a message at sar72@pitt.edu to let her know. Please see your Pitt email for a detailed explanation from Stacy about the ELI plans for the Fall 2021 term. If you have any questions or concerns, Stacy is available by email and Zoom appointment.

IEP:

Keep in Touch with the ELI

Whether this is your last semester in the ELI or you’re planning on returning next semester, you can stay up-to-date on news and announcements from the ELI by following us on social media:

Facebook: facebook.com/PittELI
Instagram: instagram.com/eli.pitt
Twitter: twitter.com/UPITT_ELI

We’d love to hear what’s new with you, too! Are you continuing in a degree program? Did you get a job where you are using your English? How did the ELI help you achieve your goals? Send us an email at elipitt@pitt.edu to let us know.

www.facebook.com/PittELI

Visit the ELI NEWS online: www.eli.pitt.edu/eli-news
IEP:  
**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 strong. In addition, please remember that the ELI usually does not consider students below ELI Level 4 to be ready for academic work. The ELI can provide letters confirming your attendance and work ethic if you are below Level 5, but for academic readiness recommendations, you should be in Level 5 or above.

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 August, you should request it by Monday, August 9. 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.

IEP:  
**Transfer Process**

Students with F1 visas who want to transfer to a new school must contact Stacy to complete the transfer. You must provide 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 contact Stacy if you have any questions about this process.

IEP:  
**Free English Proficiency Testing**

The ELI is always looking for ways to help our students develop their English and achieve their language learning goals. To help with this, we have arranged for ELI students in levels 5 and 6 to be able to take the online Duolingo English Proficiency Test for **FREE!**

Both you and the ELI will receive your score. In addition, you can choose to use your score to submit for applications to any college or university that accepts Duolingo scores in place of the TOEFL or IELTS. For more information about the Duolingo test and for a short video summary of what it looks like to take the test, visit the [Duolingo website](https://www.duolingo.com) and scroll to the section of the page that says “Accurate results in minutes”.

If you are interested in taking this free test, you must complete a short [online registration form](https://www.duolingo.com) by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, August 8. Eligible students will be emailed a code for the free Duolingo test during the week of August 9.

If you have any questions, please contact **Rob Mucklo**.

IEP:  
**Conditional Admission and TOEFL/IELTS Waivers for ELI Students**

Did you know that ELI students at the University of Pittsburgh may be eligible for conditional admission or TOEFL/IELTS language proficiency waivers for certain degree programs? The ELI currently has partnerships with:

- University of Pittsburgh Master’s of Law (LLM)
- Robert Morris University
- Point Park University

Visit the [ELI’s website](https://www.eli.pitt.edu/) for more specific information about conditional admission or TOEFL/IELTS waivers for each of these programs. We hope to add more partner programs to this list soon, so keep checking back.

IEP:  
**Consignment Shops**

If you need some extra cash, or you need to get rid of an item in good condition but feel it’s too valuable to donate, consider taking it to a consignment shop. Consignment shops are shops for gently used, second-hand clothing (and

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sometimes furniture) in good condition, but they don’t depend upon donations for their items. Instead, they will pay you a small amount of money for the items they feel they can best sell, either in cash or store credit. They may offer you slightly more in store credit to encourage you to return as a shopper. Keep in mind that if you take your items to a consignment shop, they may take only some of your collection, or nothing at all, and they usually go for clothing that is in-season. Many consignment shops will list on their website or on a flier in their store the types of items for which they are currently seeking. Below are some of the most popular consignment shops in Pittsburgh.

**Buffalo Exchange** is a nation-wide consignment store chain that only accepts clothing and accessories. You will need to **book an appointment for selling items**, either over the phone or online. You will need to bring ID, such as state ID or a passport with you to the selling appointment. They pay 25% of their selling price to you in cash or PayPal, or 50% in store credit (a “Digital Trade Card” which can be used at any Buffalo Exchange location). The **Pittsburgh location** is in the South Side.

**Avalon Exchange** is another chain consignment shop. The Pittsburgh location is in Squirrel Hill at 5834 Forbes Avenue. You can sign up for their newsletter to get notified of sales, such as their Annual Dollar Sale. You will need to bring your state ID or passport to sell, but no appointment is necessary. Avalon Exchange buys and sells clothing, jewelry and other accessories. They pay 30% in cash or 45% in store credit of resale value. They specialize in current trends, designer and vintage items. They do not have a minimum or a maximum of items to sell but they reserve the right to limit this on busy days.

**Fashion Fix** is located at 1039 South Braddock Avenue with limited store hours (see website “Contact Us” for details). Their **consignment procedure** is a little different than the other two stores mentioned here. With Fashion Fix, you get paid 50% of the value when the item is sold, but after 30 days the percentage of consignment paid to you starts to decline. You will be mailed your consignment check during the first week of each month. They also offer store credit. If you want to check them out before heading over to sell, they have a gallery on their website, as well as information on sales and events.

There are other consignment shops around Pittsburgh, so keep your eyes open when you explore neighborhoods, and let us know if you run across any really good ones.

**Happening in Pittsburgh**

A selection of events taking place in and around Pittsburgh. Please take all Covid-19 precautions, including masks and hand-washing. Be sure to double-check event information for updates before leaving to attend.

**Saturday, August 7**

**Peachy Saturday in Smicksburg:** Smicksburg (sometimes pronounced “schmicksburgh”) is an Amish town not far from Pittsburgh. Their Peachy Saturday features everything peach, from a giant peach cobbler to a little treat. **Stores** in Smicksburg include a candlemaker, a tanner (leather), pottery, antiques, quilter, and more. Be careful driving in this area, as the Amish often drive horse-drawn buggies, which are permitted on the road. More information, including driving directions, can be found on their **Contact page**. This is an excellent opportunity to practice English in a very different setting than Pittsburgh, and collect unique items as souvenirs or heirlooms to hand down to your family, as the Amish are renown craftspeople. Please note: The Amish do not like to be photographed, as it is seen as vain in their culture.

**Sunday, August 8**

**Barre Code Total Body Workout in Schenley Plaza:** 10:00-11:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 8. Barre workouts combine cardio and strength-training exercise inspired by ballet. This free class is for all levels of experience. Bring your mat and water bottle with you, and give yourself room to move.

**Saturday, August 14**

**Asian Lantern Festival at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium:** 6:30-7:00 p.m. on select nights from August 14—October 30. Glowing structures of steel and silk light up themes of the zoo, global species conservation efforts, and Asian cultures. Limited tickets available at the door and are subject to additional charges, so order online for the best price and to ensure entrance. Various performers and artists are listed towards the bottom of the event page under “Entertainment.”

**Thursday, August 26**

**Disney On Ice presents Mickey’s Search Party:** August 26—29 at various times. Join Mickey Mouse and his Disney friends for world-class icy entertainment.

**University Nights at PNC Park (Pitt):** August 26 at 7:05 p.m. Watch the Pirates vs. the St. Louis Cardinals and enjoy $1 hot dog specials at Pitt Night at PNC Park this year.

**Tuesday, August 31**

**Podcast and Pizza @ The Plaza:** August 31 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Kick off the new term by joining the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (PPC) and their new podcast For the Love of Parks on Schenley Plaza as they begin celebrating 25 years of PPC. Local restaurant The Porch will provide free pizza, PPC will
provide free carousel rides, and there will be ice cream available for purchase as well as lawn games and other food specials from local kiosks. **Registration required** in order for Porch to provide enough pizza.

**Looking Forward to Fall**

**Brick Fest Live:** September 11-12. Lego enthusiasts can shop, show off their Lego builds, attend live interactive stage shows, and more. Located at the Monroeville Convention Center. Early bird tickets available, but hurry, because they are almost sold out!

**Smicksburg Apple Weekend:** September 17 and 18 10:00a.m.-5:00 p.m. and September 19 12:00-5:00 p.m. Free horse-drawn wagon rides, apples and apple foods for sale, pumpkins, fall décor, and more. Please remember to not take pictures of the Amish, as in their culture it is considered vain and prideful. Pictures of their work and products may be acceptable, but please ask first.

**Season Premiere with the PBT Orchestra:** October 22-24. The lights of the Benedum Center stage light up once again for the first time since Covid drew the curtains. Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre will present an entrancing collection of four distinct works of ballet art that will leave you in awe. **Tickets** start at $29. IEP students with Pitt IDs can use the **Pitt Cheap Seats** discounts (friends and family may need to pay full price).

including **Cheap Seats** for IEP students with their Pitt IDs (friends and family may need to pay full price).

**More Stuff to Do Over Break**

Here are some resources to help you find things to do with your time off:

- [100 Free Things to Do with Kids in August in Pittsburgh](https://www.pittsburghmagazine.com/100-free-things-to-do-with-kids-in-august-in-pittsburgh)
- [Visit Pittsburgh](https://www.visitpittsburgh.com)
- [Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership](https://www.pittsburghdowntown.com)
- [Popular Pittsburgh](https://www.popularpittsburgh.com)
- [Pittsburgh City Paper](https://www.pittsburghcitypaper.com)
- [Pittsburgh Cultural Trust](https://www.pittsburghculturaltrust.org)
- [Pittsburgh Magazine](https://www.pittsburghmagazine.com)

Whatever you decide to do, please be mindful of Covid precautions and wear your mask indoors regardless of vaccination status.

**IEP:**

**ELI Activities Pictures**

Several of you have asked where you can view the photos from ELI activities. Several of the photos can be found posted on social media:

- **Facebook:** [@PittELI](https://www.facebook.com/PittELI)
- **Instagram:** [@eli.pitt](https://www.instagram.com/eli.pitt)
- **Twitter:** [@UPITT_ELI](https://twitter.com/UPITT_ELI)

Be sure to “Like” and follow the ELI on social media for more photos and updates!

You can also view and download photos from ELI activities at [https://pitt.box.com/s/gd6g2vytmvd66y0dsvnd9ctd6nmaae](https://pitt.box.com/s/gd6g2vytmvd66y0dsvnd9ctd6nmaae).

We hope to see you at our next ELI activity.

**Safety Tips**

The ELI believes that overall, the people of Pittsburgh are kind and welcoming to international students. The University of Pittsburgh’s goal is to be a place where all students feel like they belong and are valued. You should be treated with respect and feel safe, whether you are at school or in the outside community of Pittsburgh. There may be times when you encounter someone who is not kind and welcoming, though. If this happens, or if you feel that someone has discriminated against you, please keep the following tips in mind:

- If you encounter someone who is rude or discriminates against you in public, ignore the person and leave the area as soon as possible. Do not respond to rudeness with rudeness; the safest and most intelligent thing to do is to walk away.

- If an employee of a business discriminates against you, leave the area, and write down the time, place, what happened, and name of the employee, if you have it.

- It is important to report inappropriate behavior to a store or office manager – the company or office will want to know if their employee is using inappropriate behavior. Stacy can help you decide if you want to make a report and how to do it. Stacy’s email is sar72@pitt.edu.

The ELI is sharing these tips because it is good to be prepared in case something negative happens, but we are also confident that your time in Pittsburgh will be filled with positive experiences! We are committed to doing everything we can to make that happen, so please don’t hesitate to contact Stacy if you have any questions or concerns.

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