



ELI NEWS

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

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elipitt@pitt.edu

ELI Storytellers Series



In 2017, ELI Level 5 student Yuka Igarashi traveled to the Philippines to join an NGO program. She spent 10 days in Manila and Perez, which are rural areas. Please join us this **Friday, November 2nd, at 12:00 pm in the ELI Conference Room** to learn about her experience there. Feel free to bring your lunch to enjoy during the talk. Yuka's presentation will be 15 minutes long and there will be a short Q and A period at the end.

Activities and Events on Campus

Take advantage of the resources below to find activities where you can use English outside of the classroom, make friends, and explore campus and the city:

University Events Calendar:
<https://calendar.pitt.edu>

ELI Activities Calendar:
<https://www.eli.pitt.edu/calendar/activities-and-events-calendar>

Pitt Global Ties Events:
<https://www.facebook.com/Pitt.GlobalTies/>

Pitt Program Council Events:
<https://ppc.pitt.edu/upcoming-events/>

Pitt Arts (free museum visits and cheap seats):
<https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/pittarts/>

Pitt Serves (volunteer activities):
<https://volunteer.pitt.edu/>

Pitt Student Organizations:
<https://pitt2.campuslabs.com/engage/organizations>

ELI Activity:

ELI NIGHT New Date!

Get ready for one of the most highly anticipated activities in the ELI! ELI Night will be held on Wednesday, November 28 from 5-8 pm at the First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh, located at 605 Morewood Avenue, which is between North Oakland and Shadyside.

ELI Night is a potluck dinner for ELI students and teachers, Talk Time leaders, conversation partners, and their families and friends. At a potluck dinner, everyone brings a dish to share. The dish should be enough to feed you and your guests and approximately 6-8 others. There is always a diverse selection of delicious food to select from. You will not leave hungry!

Please let us know if you are planning to attend. You can do this online at <https://tinyurl.com/ENFall2018>. Let us know if you are coming and how many guests (family members, conversation partners, Talk Time leaders, friends) will be coming with you. We want to make sure that we have enough tables and chairs for everyone!

You should plan to arrive at the church at 5 pm. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm. If you arrive after this time, you will miss out on a great deal of delicious food! In addition, if you are late, many people might already be too full to try your tasty dishes! If you have any questions, please contact Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu.



www.facebook.com/PittELI

Statement of Purpose Information Session

When you apply to academic programs in the US, most universities ask for a statement of purpose. Many people believe that the statement of purpose is the most important piece of a college application. Your statement of purpose is your chance to tell the admissions committee who you really are. Do you know what to include in your statement? Just as important, do you know what not to include?

If you would like tips on how to write an effective and clear statement of purpose, come to the statement of purpose session on Monday, November 12 from 1:00-1:50 pm in Room M15. You must sign up for this presentation. See Stacy in room M22 or email her at sar72@pitt.edu to reserve your space. Hope to see you there!

Sky Zone Trampoline Park

Attention all thrill seekers! Join Pitt Program Council for an afternoon of fun at the world's first indoor trampoline park! Jump, fly, and flip from a trampoline runway into a pit filled with 10,000 foam cubes. Dunk like a pro with trampoline launch pads that bounce you ten feet into the air or combine regular dodge ball with Sky Zone's wall to wall trampolines to get the world's most awesome sport-Ultimate Dodgeball!

Only \$10 a ticket, sign ups begin October 24th, 2018 in the WPU Ticket Office. Only two tickets per person. The trip is on November 18th, 2018 at 3:00pm. The bus will leave the Union at 2:00pm! All Pitt Program Council events are open to all Pitt undergraduate students with a valid (Oakland) Student ID.

Information Session: Pitt Graduate School of Business

A representative from the University of Pittsburgh's Katz Graduate School of Business will offer a presentation on the Katz programs on Friday, November 16 from 1:00-2:00 pm in the ELI Computer Lab, room 103. You will hear about the history of the program, degrees offered, and the steps to take to apply. You must sign up for this session. Please email Stacy at sar72@pitt.edu if you would like to attend.

First Day of Spring 2019 Term

Please remember that if you are planning to study at the ELI next term, the first day of official attendance is Friday, January 11, 2019. If you arrive at the ELI after the first day of official attendance, you will be counted absent for each day that you miss. You may pick up your fall schedule any time after 12:00 pm on Thursday, January 10. If you cannot arrive by Monday, January 21, you will need to wait until the next semester to attend the ELI. Please see Stacy if you have any questions.

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.

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 very strong.

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 December, you should request it by Monday, December 3. 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.

Sponsored Students and Final Exams

Please note that if you are a sponsored student, and you miss your final exam for any reason, or if you fail the final exam, your sponsor will be notified immediately. Final exams in the ELI are worth 30% of the overall final grade, and both the ELI and your sponsors expect you to take the exams and to perform as well as you can on them. Remember, too, that satisfactory academic progress is a requirement of the F1 visa. If you fail courses, your F1 visa may be revoked. Please check the posted schedules for ELI final exams and plan your schedule accordingly.

Crazy Rich Asians

Join Pitt Program Council and the Chinese American Students Association in the William Pitt Union (WPU) Assembly Room at 10:00 pm on Friday, November 2nd for a FREE screening of Crazy Rich Asians! Asian-influenced snacks will be provided and there will be a photo booth. Doors open at 9:15 pm. All Pitt Program Council events are open to all Pitt undergraduate students with a valid (Oakland) Student ID.

Pitt Graduate School Fair

Come learn about the graduate programs offered here at Pitt on Thursday, November 8 at 1:00pm to 3:00pm at William Pitt Union, Lower Lounge. Get answers to questions about admissions, tuition, fees, finance, and career opportunities. Students in attendance are eligible to win a \$1,000 tuition scholarship toward a Pitt graduate program.

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.



Coffee Talk on Fridays!

4:00 – 6:00 pm Panera
(3800 Forbes Ave.)

ELI Writing Contest

The ELI is holding a competition for students in all writing classes. There will be one winner in each level (3,4,5,6), and the winners will be announced at the ELI Closing Ceremony.

If you have written a good composition in your writing class this semester, you should tell your writing teacher that you would like to enter it in the writing contest. Your teacher will then submit your paper for you. Your entry will be read anonymously by judges (your name will be removed from the paper, so they won't know who you are). The judges will choose the best composition from each level.

The deadline for entries is Thursday, November 29 at 12:00 pm.

If you are in level 4, 5, or 6, your entry must be an essay that you wrote in class this semester. If you are in level 3, your entry can be a shorter composition, even a single paragraph. Each student can enter only one composition.

Good luck!

FI Students and Part Time Study

Students with FI visas have the benefit of taking a vacation term for part time study. If you have studied full time at the ELI for two semesters, you can choose to take a break next semester or to study part time. You may only take one vacation term during your study at the ELI.

Please remember that you must **pre-register** for this benefit. You cannot change to a vacation term after the term starts. **There are no exceptions to this rule. The deadline for choosing a vacation term or part time study for FI students is November 30, 2018.**

Also, please remember that Saudi and Kuwaiti students who are sponsored by their governments are not allowed to study part time because of sponsor rules. **If you are a sponsored student and would like to study part time, you must provide a letter of permission from your sponsor before November 30.** This letter must be in English. The ELI does not make these requests for students; you must speak to your sponsor yourself.

ELI Pre-registration Schedule Spring 2019

If you plan to study at the ELI next term, you must pre-register with Stacy at your assigned time in room M22. If you do not pre-register with Stacy, the ELI cannot guarantee your place for the fall term. If you plan to take a vacation term, you must see Stacy to register, too.

Sections 3F, 4J, 4L, 5P, 6T:

Monday, October 29:
1:00-1:50 pm

Tuesday, October 30:
1:00-1:50

Sections 3G, 4K, 5Q:

Thursday, November 1:
12:00-12:50 pm

Friday, November 2:
12:00-12:50 pm

Language Music Club



Do enjoy listening to music in English? Do

want to learn more vocabulary, practice grammar, and improve your listening and speaking skills? If you answered yes to 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 meets every Tuesday from 1-1:30 pm in Room M15. This room is next to the main office. Feel free to bring your lunch! The same session will be repeated from 3-3:30 pm in Room 111. 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.

Global ties Trip to Amish County

Join Global Ties for a visit to Berlin, Ohio to learn about the Amish culture. The tour will include a history tour, a visit with leather and basket makers, shopping at authentic Amish stores, and lunch in an Amish home!

The cost of this trip is \$20 (non-refundable) that will cover the transportation, tours, and lunch. Students are responsible for their own gifts/purchased store items.

Registration is held on the 6th floor of the William Pitt Union

PPC Trip to NYC

Spend a weekend in New York City with Pitt Program Council! Ticket prices not only include transportation and two nights in the Hotel Edison in the heart of Times Square but also walking and bus tours of the city AND orchestra seats to see the Broadway show Mean Girls!

We will leave campus Saturday morning, January 19, at 7:00 AM then spend a spectacular weekend in the city and depart for Pittsburgh on Monday, January 21, at noon.

Sign up in the Pitt Program Council office, William Pitt Union (WPU) M-30, starting September 17 through December 7. A \$100 deposit is due at the time of sign up.

Trip includes purchase of a quad, triple, or double room. Quad price is \$259, a triple is \$299, and a double is \$369 per person. Participants must also pay a \$30 security deposit, not included in room prices or \$100 deposit.

Any tickets purchased after December 7 must be paid in full at the time of sign-up.

All Pitt Program Council events are open to all undergraduate Pitt students with a valid (Oakland) Student ID.

English Language Institute Final Exam Schedule Fall 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 make up exams. Role Play finals in Speaking are graded with another Speaking teacher. Writing finals are graded by a teacher from another class with input from your teacher.

Please note the following schedule and plan to be present for the finals.

Friday, Nov. 30	Monday, Dec. 3	Tuesday, Dec. 4
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	

I-20's for New F1 Students

If you are a new student with an F1 visa this term, 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 ELI classes and are in the US legally. You must have this I-20 for your records.

Student Advisor Office Hours

Please remember that Stacy Ranson, the ELI 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
12:00 pm-12:45 pm
1:00 pm-1:45 pm

Unpaid Tuition

If you or your sponsor has not paid your ELI tuition for the fall term, you are past the deadline for payment. You can check your tuition account by logging in to my.pitt.edu and clicking PittPay. Please note that students with unpaid tuition cannot receive copies of grades reports, letters of recommendation, or any other documents from the ELI. There are several ways to pay your tuition.

- **eCheck:** Free online transfer from a US bank account to your Pitt account.
- **Cash, check, or money order:** Visit the Student Payment Center in room G-7 Thackeray Hall.
- **Credit cards:** Online *only* at my.pitt.edu—you may not use a credit card at Thackeray Hall. There is an additional 2.75% fee for using a credit card.

Japanese Conversation Tables

Suzanne Meyer

The Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures is holding a Japanese



conversation table in [244A Cathedral of Learning](#) this year. If you'd like to speak Japanese and help people studying Japanese to practice, please feel welcome to go! Also, most people are happy to speak English when the conversation table has finished.

Meetings are on from 4:00-5:00P on the following dates:

Friday, November 2nd
Friday, November 30th

For more information, contact Dr. Stephen D. Luft at luft@pitt.edu.

ELI Idiom of the Week

An **idiom** is a phrase or expression whose meaning might not always be clear from the words that make it up. Each week, the phrase will relate to something going on at the ELI, like a specific activity. See if you can figure out why this idiom was chosen for this week.

"Bite off more than one can chew"

To take on too many tasks, jobs, or responsibilities, or to attempt something that you can't complete by yourself.

For example: "You want to apply to seventeen different colleges after you are done at the ELI? Just be careful not to **bite off more than you can chew!**" or "Sade really **bit off more than she can chew** when she agreed to make dessert for everyone at ELI night!"

Mark your calendars! Upcoming ELI Activities

Wednesday, November 28:
ELI Night

Saturday, December 1:
Volunteering with CHS

Saturday, December 1: Cookie Tour

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