



ELI NEWS

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

09-27-18, Volume 57 Issue 4
elipitt@pitt.edu

Prayer Rooms Fall 2018

The ELI can provide the following rooms for prayer:

Room 104
12:00-12:45 pm

Mondays only: The ELI does not have rooms available for prayer at 12:00 pm on other days

Room 111 and 112
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.

**Follow us on
Twitter**

@Upitt_ELl



ELI Activity:

ELI Trip



Deadline Today!

Join the ELI for a very special trip to Hershey, Pennsylvania – the home of world-famous Hershey's chocolates and Reese's Cups! We will depart **Oct. 27 at 8:45 am and return Oct. 28 at 10 pm**. The cost is \$240 per student (4 students per room, 2 per bed) or \$270 per student (2 students per room, 1 per bed). This price includes:

- 1-day admission to Hershey Park (amusement park with over 70 rides and attractions)
- tour of Hershey's Chocolate World
- admission to the Hershey Story Museum
- chocolate lab class (45-minute class to learn about the ingredients and process of making chocolate)
- lessons on how to taste chocolate from Hershey's tasting experts
- creating your own chocolate bar and designing your own label
- 4D chocolate mystery movie
- 1-night hotel accommodation
- breakfast at the hotel
- roundtrip transportation on a private bus

You must pay the main office by **4:30 pm today, Thursday, September 27**. Please bring the exact amount (cash only). There are no refunds. Please contact Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu if you have any questions.

I-20 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, 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
12:00 pm-12:45 pm
1:00 pm-1:45 pm

English-Mandarin Language Social Hour

Join the Asian Studies Center at the University Center for International Studies for an English-Mandarin Language Social Hour on **Tuesday, October 2 from 4:30 – 6 pm** in room 4130 in Posvar Hall. This room is the same location where the UCIS Information Session was a few weeks ago. **This event is open to all ELI students.** Enjoy an evening of language and culture exchange between Pitt students and international students. Free pizza and drinks will be provided! If you have any questions, contact the Asian Studies Center at asia@pitt.edu.

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 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 12:00 or 1:00 lunch break or after classes at 4:00. 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

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.

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.



U.S. Alcohol Laws

All ELI students and employees of the University must fully obey the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania regarding the possession and consumption of alcohol. These laws prohibit providing alcohol to anyone under the age of 21 or to anyone visibly intoxicated. Anyone under the age of 21 is prohibited from possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages under any circumstances, and anyone under the age of 21 is prohibited from being on licensed premises where alcohol is served, unless under proper supervision. Please see Stacy if you have any questions about these laws.

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.

Keeping the ELI Clean

The ELI tries to create a nice environment for our students, and part of that is providing a neat and tidy environment for you. Please help us to keep your classrooms and the Vault clean by throwing away any garbage in the appropriate trash cans. Please don't leave any water bottles, cups, papers, or any other trash on desks, on the floor, or in the hallway after you have finished with them. Also, please do not scrape food into the sink when you rinse your dishes. Put all food into the trash can so that the sink will stay clean and drain properly. There are trashcans in every classroom and in each hallway-please use them.

Language Music Club



Do you enjoy listening to music in English? Do you 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.

Pumpkin Carving and Painting



It's that spooky time of year again! Get in the spirit of Halloween by joining Pitt Program Council to carve and paint your own pumpkin. "A Carving We Will Go" is for 50 students, and best of all, it's free! Tickets went on sale Wednesday, September 26 in the WPU Ticket Office. This event will probably sellout quickly, so get your ticket soon!

All Pitt Program Council events are open to all undergraduate Pitt students with a valid (Oakland) Student ID, which includes ELI students in the Intensive English Program.



www.facebook.com/PittELI

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.

IELTS & TOEFL Prep Course

IELTS Prep course will run!
The IELTS Prep course starts today!!

Thursdays from Sept. 27 – Nov. 15
Module 1: 4:00-5:50pm
(16 hours total)

Cost: \$240 for students in the ELI's intensive program
\$300 for non-ELI students

It is not too late to register. The instructor is an experienced IELTS trainer and writes materials for the IELTS exam.

There is also room in the **TOEFL Prep** course. Sign up this week if you are planning to take the TOEFL.

Wednesdays from Oct. 3 – Nov. 14
(no class Oct. 17)

- Module 1 Reading & Writing
11:00am-1:00pm (12 hours total)
- Module 2 Speaking & Listening
2:00-4:00pm (12 hours total)

Cost: \$175 per module for students in the ELI's intensive program
\$215 for non-ELI students

Details here:

<https://www.eli.pitt.edu/programs/toefl-preparation-course>

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 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>

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.

Lunch Space Available

We know that the Vault can get very busy during lunch hour at the ELI. For this reason, the ELI will offer Room M15 to students on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 12:00-12:45 pm and 1:00-1:45 pm as an extra room for lunch. This is the conference room next to Stacy's office. Please see Stacy or the ELI main office to unlock the door.



Please note the following rules:

- Room M15 must be completely clean every day after lunch. Please wipe any spills and throw away all garbage in an appropriate garbage can.
- Students may not use the kitchen on floor M. This kitchen is for staff and faculty only. Students must use the refrigerator, microwave, and sink in the kitchen on the ground floor.
- Students must be quiet when using this room. It is ok to have conversation at a normal level. Please remember that ELI offices are very close, though, and people are working nearby.
- Please do not use M15 for prayer.

If any of these rules are broken, M15 will no longer be available for the lunch hour.

ELI F1 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.

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.

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.)

Title IX Policy

Title IX is a U.S. law that gives you the right to report any instances of sexual misconduct to the University, have the University investigate what happened, and have your complaint resolved. Sexual misconduct is sexual contact **that you do not want:**

- Someone speaking to you in a sexual way or asking you for sex
- Someone forcing you to have sexual contact
- Relationship violence: Spouse/partner speaking to you or treating you in an abusive or violent way
- Stalking: Someone repeatedly following or threatening you, including by phone/text/email/mail/social media

You can report sexual misconduct to ELI officials or to the police. The ELI will help you report the issue to the University. Please note: If you report an issue to an ELI staff or faculty member, the ELI is required to report the issue to the University Title IX office. The ELI cannot maintain complete confidentiality. In other words, if you tell any teacher or staff member in the ELI, they must report it to the university. If you want to speak to a confidential advisor, the ELI can help you find a counselor at the University Counseling Center. In almost all cases, this counselor will not inform other people about what you tell them.

University Counseling Center
119 University Place
Nordenberg Hall
412-648-7930

If you experience any type of sexual misconduct, harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, please talk to the ELI Student Advisor or an ELI teacher immediately.



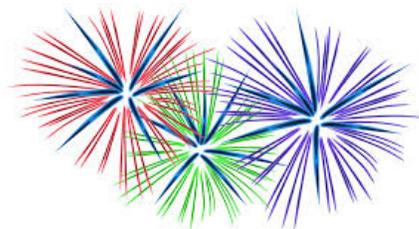
Homecoming Laser and Fireworks Show



Pitt Program Council invites you to a Pitt Homecoming tradition: the Homecoming Laser & Fireworks Show.

Join Pitt students and alumni on Bigelow Boulevard and the WPU Patio and Lawn to watch the skies above the Cathedral of Learning light up! The show begins at 9pm rain or shine. Come early to see the Pitt Athletics basketball tournament "Courtside at the Cathedral" on Bigelow Blvd. at 8pm featuring your 2018 Pitt Basketball team!

Immediately following the Laser & Fireworks show, join Pitt Program Council for an evening of casino games, entertainment, and HUGE prizes at Monte Carlo Night! All Pitt Program Council events are open to all undergraduate Pitt students with a valid (Oakland) Student ID, which includes ELI students studying in the Intensive English Program



Mark your calendars! Upcoming ELI Activities

Sunday, October 7: Theater Sneak Peek

Wednesday, October 10: Nature Walk

Tuesday, October 16: International Speedfriending

Saturday, October 27-Sunday, October 28: ELI Trip to Hershey, PA

Wednesday, October 31: Halloween Party