



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

This Week Marks the First Day of Spring!



Snowflakes might fall from the sky on Friday, but spring has indeed sprung in Pittsburgh. This past Wednesday, March 20 marked the first day of the spring season. The city of Pittsburgh has many indoor activities to offer so you can still enjoy the changing of the season (even if there is snow!)

- Take time to stop and smell the flowers at Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens, located in Oakland.
- Visit Pittsburgh's contemporary art museum called the Mattress Factory in the North Side.
- Learn about the early days of Pittsburgh at the Heinz History Center in the Strip District neighborhood. Explore some of the many places to eat like Deluca's Diner or stop into Wholey's for a fish sandwich while you are in the area.
- Grab some friends and hang out at the Kickback Café in Lawrenceville. This is a unique coffee shop that also serves as a pinball arcade! Be sure to bring quarters with you to play some pinball.

Remember that admission to many museums, including the ones above, is free with your valid Pitt ID! These museum visits are not free in the summer, even if you are a student.

I-20 Expiration Dates for F-1 Students

By Stacy Ranson

The end of the semester is coming soon! If you are an F-1 student, please check the expiration date on your I-20. On page 1 of your I-20, under #5, you will see a beginning date for your studies and a completion date for your studies. **Remember that it is your responsibility to make sure that your I-20 does not expire!** If your I-20 will expire at the end of this semester, you must see Stacy if you want to extend your time at the ELI. **It is too late to request an extension after your I-20 has expired**, so please take a moment to check now.

ELI Pre-registration Summer 2019

If you plan to study at the ELI next term, please make sure to register with Stacy in room M22. If you do not register with Stacy, the ELI cannot guarantee your place for the next term. If you plan to take a vacation term, you must see Stacy to register for that, too. The ELI will then electronically register you with the University of Pittsburgh.



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ELI Activity:

ELI NIGHT Saturday!

Get ready for one of the most highly anticipated activities in the ELI! ELI Night will be held on **Saturday, March 23** from 5-8 pm in the basement hall of the First Baptist Church of Pittsburgh at 159 North Bellefield Ave. 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!

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/ENSpring2019>.

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! This event is open to all ELI students, including CCC students. Children are also welcome to attend.

At **6:15 pm**, we will play Bingo! After we distribute the bingo cards, someone will randomly select a letter and number that might correspond to a space on your board. After you get five letter/number combinations (Cont.)

in a row on your board, you should yell "Bingo"! Someone will check your board to make sure you marked the correct spaces. If you win, you will receive a prize!

If you have any questions, please contact Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu.

Please note that ELI Night coincides with the Global Ties Global Gala. However, the Global Gala does not begin until 7 pm. Come to ELI Night to enjoy delicious homemade food from disparate countries with your classmates and teachers, and then continue your internationally-themed evening with Global Ties! Read the article in this week's News for more information about the Global Gala.

Open Rec Wheelchair Basketball

If you want to learn how to play Wheelchair Basketball or brush up on your skills, on Thursdays from 6-8 pm, in Trees Hall Gymnasium, come join Pittsburgh Steel wheelers and members of SDA (Students for Disability Advocacy) for a game of basketball.

Greek Sing

Greek Sing is a song and dance competition during Greek Week. Greek week is a weeklong celebration of all the social fraternities and sororities on campus. This is a high-energy event showcasing the talents of the fraternity and sorority life community. This event is free to anyone with a Pitt ID. Tickets are available for pre-sale (\$15) and at the door (\$20). On Friday, March 22, at Fitzgerald Field House (Allequippa and Darragh Streets, Pittsburgh, PA, 1521), doors will open at 6:00 pm and the show will start at 7:00 pm. No bags or food/drink will be permitted in the event.

Global Ties Global Gala

Global Ties at the University of Pittsburgh is hosting a Global Gala event. It will be held on Saturday, March 23rd from 7:00-10:00pm in the Lower Lounge of the William Pitt Union.

A gala is a party in which attendees dress up in formal clothing. Formal clothing usually means clothes that you might wear to a special event like a graduation party or wedding. International students are encouraged to wear their country's traditional clothing at this event!

Tickets are \$5 each for ELI students studying in the Intensive English Program or the Evening Course. Each ELI student can pay \$10 for one non-Pitt student guest. There are limited spots for guests, so get your tickets soon! You can purchase your tickets from the WPU ticket office on the main floor until the day of the event.

The Gala will have music from around the world, a dance floor, and catered food! This is a great way for international students and domestic students to meet and share in an American cultural experience, and an exciting new way to expand your international perspectives. The event's objective is to provide a fun, new setting that will allow students to share their diversity and make new connections.

Please note that the Global Ties Global Gala coincides with ELI Night. However, the Global Gala does not begin until 7 pm. Come to ELI Night to enjoy delicious homemade food from disparate countries with your classmates and teachers, and then continue your internationally-themed evening with Global Ties! Read the article in this week's News for more information about ELI Night.



Follow Us on Twitter!

Follow us on Twitter at
[@UPITT_ELI](https://twitter.com/UPITT_ELI)

ELI Activity:

Language Music Club Final Meeting!

Next Tuesday, March 26, will be the final meeting of the Language Music Club this term. If you haven't attended all semester, this is your last chance to engage in disparate activities to help you improve your English skills.

Students who have attended the meetings in the last seven weeks have maximized their time at the ELI by devoting their lunch hour to reinforcing their language skills. Nobody coerced these students into attending and students were never disciplined for selecting an incorrect answer during the activities. This stress-free environment allowed even timid students to challenge themselves.

No musical talent is required. All you need is a positive attitude and a desire to improve your English! This activity is open to all ELI students, including CCC students. For more information or to make song suggestions, please contact Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu.

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 not know who you are). The judges will choose the best composition from each level.

The deadline for entries is Thursday, April 4 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!

Blanket Making



Join Pitt Program Council for a fun night of Blanket Making on Thursday March 21, from 10:00 pm – 12:00 pm at the William Pitt Union, Ballroom (3959 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260). Tickets are \$5 and everyone will get two pieces of fleece fabric of their choosing that they can make into a throw-sized blanket! Limit 2 tickets per person; there are a limited number of spots available. All Pitt Program Council events are open to all undergraduate Pitt students with a valid (Oakland) Student ID.

Pitt Pantry Annual Hunger Banquet

Come and join Pitt on its annual Hunger Banquet on Monday, March 25, from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm, at the William Pitt Union, Assembly Room (3959 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260). The Hunger Banquet allows participants to experience a new perspective on the college diet as they step into a new identity during a hunger simulation. They will also meet and hear from leaders on the front line of food, social justice and equity initiatives on campus and around Pittsburgh. Doors open at 5:45 p.m.

First Day of Summer 2019 Term



Please remember that if you are planning to study at the ELI next term, the first day of official attendance is Friday, May 10, 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. If you cannot arrive by Friday, May 17, you will need to wait until the next semester to attend the ELI. Please see Stacy if you cannot arrive by May 17.

FI Students and End-of-Term Grace Period

The Department of Homeland Security requires 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.

Battle of the Bands

Compete in the Battle of the Bands in the William Pitt Union (WPU) Assembly Room and you could be sharing the stage with T-PAIN! All students are welcome to watch this high energy show! The Battle of the Bands is a judged talent competition whose winner gets to perform on one of Pitt's biggest stages! All performers are welcomed: Bands, DJs, Rappers, Step Teams, Glee Clubs, Jugglers, Yodlers, you name it! Sign-ups are held in WPU M-30. At least 50% percent of the act must be Pitt students and IDs will be required at sign-up. Previous winners cannot participate. Event will be held on Wednesday, March 27, from 8:30 pm - 11:00 pm, at the William Pitt Union, Assembly Room (3959 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260). A full list of rules and regulations is available in WPU M-30. All Pitt Program Council events are open to all undergraduate Pitt students with a valid (Oakland) Student ID.

Pitt Handbell Choir



Founded in 2004, the University Handbell Ensemble is the only student organization at the University of Pittsburgh dedicated to teaching, practicing, and performing the unique art of handbell ringing. Every year bell enthusiasts, well-seasoned ringers, and even beginner handbellers join our ranks to learn a variety of music varying from religious or classical to today's greatest hits and yesterday's favorites! This semester the University Handbell Ensemble has been working extremely hard to prepare a lovely spring repertoire of Easter hymns, festival pieces, and several Disney favorites. After hours of rehearsal, the ensemble is finally ready to share their hard work with the Pittsburgh community! The University Handbell Ensemble invites you to join them on Sunday, March 24, at 3:00 pm in the Heinz Memorial Chapel (Fifth and Bellefield Avenues, Pittsburgh, PA, 1526) for their spring concert in Heinz Chapel. We hope to see you there!

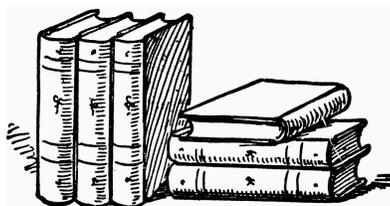
Paying Tuition Summer 2019

You will be able to pay your tuition starting April 20. You should pay your tuition for the summer 2019 term before May 22, 2019. If you pay after this date, you will be charged late fees. Check your account by logging in to my.pitt.edu and clicking PittPay. There are several ways to pay your tuition.

- **eCheck:** Free online transfer from a US bank account to your Pitt account.
- **Payment plan:** \$55 fee, see <http://payments.pitt.edu/payment-plans/>
- **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.

ELI Spring Schedules and Book Swap

If you are continuing in the ELI next term, you may pick up your new schedule in the ELI main office any time after 12:00 pm on Thursday, May 9. Classes start Friday, May 10. The ELI will also make the Vault available to students on Thursday, May 9 from 12:00-2:00 pm for a textbook swap. If you would like to meet up with your classmates to sell or exchange textbooks for the new term, the ELI will provide updated book lists for classes and the space; the negotiations are all up to you!



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.

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-1:45 pm

English Language Institute Final Exam Schedule Spring 2019

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.

Fri, April 5	Mon, April 8	Tues, April 9
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	



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.

“It takes two to tango.”

Said when you want to emphasize that both people involved in a difficult situation must accept the blame, or that an activity needs two people who are willing to take part for it to happen

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org>

For example: “Farah is not to blame for your argument. It takes two to tango. Both of you are equally responsible for not reaching an agreement.”

Mark your calendars! Upcoming ELI Activities

Saturday, March 23: ELI Night

Tuesday, March 26:

Language Music Club

Saturday, March 30:

ELI Trip to Fallingwater

Thursday, April 4: Easter Egg Hunt



Coffee Talk on Fridays!

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

