



# ELI NEWS

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

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ELI Activity:

## The Phantom of the Opera Update

If you bought a ticket to see The Phantom of the Opera with the ELI, you can pick up your ticket on **Thursday, February 28, from 1:00-1:30 pm in M15**. When you pick up your ticket, tell Ece whether you will take the bus with us from the ELI or meet us at the show.

On **Thursday, February 28**, we will meet at the ELI at **6:00 pm**. We are meeting early because there might be a line to enter when we arrive. The Benedum Center has implemented new security procedures and the contents of your bag will be carefully scrutinized. **Please be aware that the following items are prohibited: bags larger than 16X16X8 (inches), outside food and beverages, laptops/tablets, containers of any kind including cans and bottles.** These stringent policies are not flexible. If you try to violate this policy, you will not be allowed to enter the Benedum, and you will miss the show. Plan ahead on that day and leave these items in your locker at the ELI.

If you haven't purchased a ticket, but you would like to join us, you can get your ticket from Pitt Arts for the same price, \$31. Contact Ece at [ecu4@pitt.edu](mailto:ecu4@pitt.edu) if you are interested. She will email you the link to purchase the ticket, and she will also tell you where our seats are if you want to sit near us.

## Unpaid Tuition

If you or your sponsor have not paid your ELI tuition for the spring term, you are past the deadline for payment. You can check your tuition account by logging in to [my.pitt.edu](http://my.pitt.edu) and clicking PittPay. Please note that students with unpaid tuition cannot receive copies of final grades, 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 at Thackeray Hall.

**Credit cards:** Online **only** at [my.pitt.edu](http://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.

## 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. You may pick up your summer schedule any time after 12:00 pm on Thursday, May 9. If you cannot arrive by Monday, May 20, you will need to wait until the next semester to attend the ELI. Please see Stacy if you have any questions.

ELI Activity

## Language Music Club Today!

The Language Music Club usually meets every Tuesday. However, this week, we will meet **today, Thursday, February 21**. We will meet in our usual room, **M15**, and at our usual time, **1-1:45 pm**. Feel free to bring your lunch! We have had three meetings so far, but you can drop in anytime!



The main objective of this club is to have fun practicing English in a musical environment! The meetings of the Language Music Club include a variety of activities, including focusing on the grammar and vocabulary used in lyrics as well as practicing pronunciation and fluency. We also have discussions on what these songs mean. These activities are not too challenging, so your motivation to learn English will increase rather than diminish.

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](mailto:ecu4@pitt.edu).

Follow the ELI  
on Instagram  
[@eli.pitt](https://www.instagram.com/eli.pitt)



ELI Activity:

## Board Games with APO Advance Registration Required

Are you tired of playing nonsense games on your phone? Are you looking for a more compelling game in which you can interact with others in person and practice your English skills? If so, then join the ELI and APO for an entertaining afternoon of playing board games on Wednesday, **March 6**, from **2:00-3:30 pm**! We will meet in the William Pitt Union, Dining Room B, which is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

If you are not familiar with American board games, don't worry! The ELI has partnered with Alpha Phi Omega (APO), which is a service fraternity at the University of Pittsburgh. Members of APO will teach you how to play a variety of board games.

Chess, Scrabble, and Monopoly are just three examples of the disparate board games played in the USA. These games are called board games because many of them are played with some kind of board. In some games you have a marker that you move around the board based on the number you roll with a pair of dice. Some board games, however, don't have a board at all. There are games in which you draw a card and have to describe, illustrate, or act out the word on the card. Then your team members must extrapolate what the word is. Some board games are more challenging than others, but the objective of this activity is not to win, but to have fun trying something new and meeting new people!

This is a great way to have a cultural experience and practice your speaking and listening skills with native English speakers! This activity is open to ELI students studying in the Intensive English Program or the Evening Course. The event is free, but **you must pre-register by 4 pm on Thursday, February 28** at [tinyurl.com/Games2194](http://tinyurl.com/Games2194).

Contact Ece at [ecu4@pitt.edu](mailto:ecu4@pitt.edu) if you have any questions.

## 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 during pre-registration. 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 April 2, 2019.**

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 April 2.** This letter must be in English. The ELI does not make these requests for students; you must speak to your sponsor yourself.

## Income Tax Information

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is the department of the U.S. government that is responsible for collecting taxes. If you lived in the U.S. during 2018, you must send the IRS some information. All international students who are not residents of the U.S. must file IRS Form 8843. Your spouses and children must also file this form. You may have to file other forms, as well. You can find form 8843 online at <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf>.

You must send your forms to the IRS before April 15, 2019. If you need help filling out the IRS forms or have questions about taxes, there are many resources that can help you.

Some of you will receive a 2018 Tuition Statement from the University of Pittsburgh. Students use this statement when they need to pay taxes. If you did not work in the U.S. during 2018, you do not need to pay taxes, and you don't need to use this statement. **If you did not work, you must still file form 8843, though.**

**Please note:** The ELI does not have any tax professionals on staff. If you have more questions about filing taxes, please contact the IRS or a tax professional.

ELI Activity:

## Heinz History Center

There is more to Pittsburgh than meets the eye. Join the ELI on a trip to the Heinz History Center on **Saturday, February 23**, and discover the history of Western Pennsylvania. The Heinz History Center is the largest history museum in Pennsylvania and contains 250 years of Pittsburgh history, from the French and Indian War to the city's most recent sports history. This is not a typical museum; the exhibits are interactive and there is something for everyone to enjoy.

In addition to the regular exhibits, there are two special exhibits. One is called "Mister Roger's Neighborhood." Mister Rogers was a children's TV host who was a strong advocate for public television and stressed the importance of kindness. At the Heinz History Center, we will see the TV set that was used in the show as well as learn more about Mister Rogers. The other special exhibit is called "Destination Moon". In this exhibit, you can learn about the various challenges and outcomes of the American space program as well as the poignant moments that the astronauts experienced during the Apollo 11 mission.

This activity is open to all ELI students, including CCC students. Children are also welcome. Admission is free with a valid Pitt student ID. Regular admission is \$16. You can pay for your admission at the museum. On Saturday, February 23, we will meet in the ELI lobby at **10:30 am** and take the bus downtown together.

## Keeping Classrooms Clean

We try to create a nice environment for our ELI students, and part of that is providing neat and tidy classrooms for you. Please help us to keep our classrooms 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. There are trashcans in every classroom and in each hallway-please use them.

## ELI Trip to Fallingwater and Ohiopyle Deadline Today!

If you would like to join the ELI for a special trip to the Laurel Highlands, you must pay the main office by **4:30 pm today, Thursday, February 21**. Please bring the exact amount (cash only). There are no refunds. On this trip we will visit Frank Lloyd Wright's world-famous Fallingwater house and the beautiful Ohiopyle State Park. We will depart on **Saturday, March 30**, at **8:45 am** and return **the same day** around **8 pm**. The cost is \$50 per student and includes roundtrip transportation in a University van and a tour of the Fallingwater house. It takes approximately 2 hours to reach Fallingwater from the ELI.

When we arrive at Fallingwater, we will have a 1-hour tour of the house. A guided tour is the only way to access the inside of the house. This house is unique because it was built on top of a waterfall. This kind of architecture is far from mediocre! After the tour, we will have some time to explore the beautiful grounds and take pictures of the outside of the house. Then we will take a short drive to Ohiopyle State Park, where we will enjoy a picnic lunch that you must pack yourself before leaving for the trip (not included in the cost). After enjoying the nature of Ohiopyle, we will return to Pittsburgh.

Currently this trip is only open to ELI students studying in the Intensive English Program or the Evening Course. Please contact Ece at [ecu4@pitt.edu](mailto:ecu4@pitt.edu) if you are a CCC student or if you are an ELI student who wants to bring a guest. If there is still space available after February 21, CCC students and guests of ELI students will be able to join the trip. Children under the age of 18 are not allowed.

Contact Ece at [ecu4@pitt.edu](mailto:ecu4@pitt.edu) if you have any questions.



### Coffee Talk on Fridays!

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

## Captain Marvel Premiere

It's Superhero time once again! Pitt Program Council is hosting a showing of *Captain Marvel* at Southside Works Cinema. Tickets are on sale for \$10 and deadline to buy tickets is Wednesday, March 6th. The \$10 ticket includes your movie ticket/admission, small sized popcorn and drink, and transportation to the SouthSide Works Cinema and back to the William Pitt Union. Buses will leave the William Pitt Union at 9:00 P.M. and are expected to return to the William Pitt Union around 12:30 A.M. You must ride the bus to Southside Works Cinema and back to the William Pitt Union. All Pitt Program Council events are open to all undergraduate Pitt students with a valid (Oakland) Student ID.

ELI Activity:

## Ring It On! Handbell Workshop Advance Registration Required

The University Handbell Ensemble is offering a free workshop for University of Pittsburgh students, faculty, and staff on **Sunday, March 3** from 4-5:30 pm. If you have ever wanted to learn a new musical instrument, you will definitely enjoy this event! In this unique introduction to the art of handbell ringing, you will learn the basics of music notation and ringing as well as enjoy a short performance by the Ensemble.

**Advance registration is required!** This event is hosted by the Center for Creativity at Pitt (<https://www.creative.pitt.edu/>). Their events sell out very quickly, so please email Ece at [ecu4@pitt.edu](mailto:ecu4@pitt.edu) as soon as possible. She will complete the registration for you and email you after the registration is complete. If you do not register in advance, you will not be able to attend the workshop. If you change your mind after registration, please let Ece know as soon as possible so that someone else can have the chance to attend.

On Sunday, March 3, we will meet at the ELI at 3:30 pm and walk to the Center for Creativity together. You can check out some videos of the Ensemble's performances at <https://pitthandbell.weebly.com/videos.html>.

## 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 April, you should request it by Monday, April 8. 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.

## Language Coffee House

The Center for Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTL) is hosting a Language Coffee House. At this event, you can imagine you are at a coffee house in another country and practice ordering items in the language that is spoken in that country.

You can try ordering *kaffe* and *kanelbullar* in Swedish, *chai* and *chakli* in Hindi, or *salep* and *kuru pasta* in Turkish! Instructors and students from LCTL will teach you how to place your order in one of the 15 languages that are taught at the Center. These languages include Swahili, Quechua, Irish, Persian, Vietnamese, Hungarian, and many others!

After you place your order, you can enjoy the free drinks and snacks you just ordered! The LCTL Coffeehouse will be held in the **WPU Assembly Room on Tuesday, February 26**, from **4:30-6:30 pm**. Visit the LCTL website at [www.lctl.pitt.edu](http://www.lctl.pitt.edu) for more information!

## “Icy Lights” Block Party

On Friday, March 1, from 4:00-10:00 pm, the Oakland Business Improvement District (OBID) is hosting a winter-themed block party called “Icy Lights.” This event will be held outside on Oakland Avenue, between Forbes Avenue and Sennott Street.

A block party is a party held in the street. Usually this kind of party is for the people living in that neighborhood, but this block party is free and open to the public! This event will showcase Oakland’s newest festival-style lighting installation, which spans across Oakland Avenue. The celebration will include fun and exciting entertainment, including live bands, a DJ, and live ice carving. In addition, for the first time in Pittsburgh, there will be street curling competitions! Curling is a sport played on ice, in which players slide flat heavy stones towards a marked place. Visit [tinyurl.com/curling2018](http://tinyurl.com/curling2018) to watch some clips of curling competitions from the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang last year.

Students from the University of Pittsburgh who are competent curling players will be at the “Icy Lights” event to teach curling technique. You can even organize a team and challenge another group, but competing is not mandatory. You can also watch and cheer on the teams from the sidelines.

A very special matchup is also scheduled between Iceburgh, the mascot of the Pittsburgh Penguins hockey team, and Roc. What do you think the outcome will be? Most of us are probably biased to think our beloved University of Pittsburgh mascot will emerge as the victor.

Between participating in all of the activities, OBID invites the guests of “Icy Lights” to take a break in warming lounge areas while sipping on a complimentary beverage. Additional food and beverages will be available for purchase. Each hour, OBID will announce prize giveaways, such as tickets to Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. If you are available on March 1, you should not have wavering doubts about attending this event!

For more information about this event, visit [onlyinoakland.org/events/icy-lights](http://onlyinoakland.org/events/icy-lights).

## 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](mailto: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
<b>Writing final</b> 10:00am- 12:00pm	<b>Grammar final</b> 10:00am- 12:00pm	<b>Reading final</b> 10:00am- 12:00pm
<b>Speaking final</b> 1:00pm- 3:00pm	<b>Listening final</b> 2:00pm- 4:00pm	



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

## 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.

### “Hold your horses.”

Be patient; wait a minute. Often said when you are moving too quickly or thoughtlessly.

[idioms.thefreedictionary.com](http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com)

For example: “I know you’re excited about Spring Break and not having much work to do, but **hold your horses**,” said the teacher. “We still have to finish Unit 5 and have a test.”

## Mark your calendars! Upcoming ELI Activities

**Thursday, February 21:** Language Music Club

**Saturday, February 23:** Heinz History Center

**Thursday, February 28:** Phantom of the Opera

**Sunday, March 3:** Ring It On! Handbell Workshop

**Wednesday, March 6:** Board Games with APO

**Saturday, March 23:** ELI Night

**Friday, March 29:** Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, March 30:** ELI Trip to Fallingwater