



# ELI NEWS

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

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## Safety Tips for the Break

As we move into the break, we hope that you will all take the time to relax and enjoy your time off. While you are away, please keep the following tips in mind for a safe break:

- 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](mailto:sar72@pitt.edu).

We are sharing these tips because it is good to be prepared in case something negative happens, but we are also confident that your break will be filled with calm and happiness. Have a wonderful break!



### Follow Us on Twitter!

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

## ELI Closing Ceremony

by Stacy Ranson

The ELI would like to invite you to the Closing Ceremony for this semester. The ceremony will be on April 11 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the William Pitt Union. We'll take pictures, have some refreshments, and hand out attendance certificates at the ceremony. You all have played a big role in making this semester great—we hope you'll come celebrate with us!

## Unpaid Tuition

If you or your sponsors have 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](https://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 in room G-7 Thackeray Hall.

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

Please note that ELI lockers must be cleaned out by 12:00 pm **tomorrow**. Locks must be removed. Locks left on lockers after tomorrow will be cut off, and anything left in lockers will be placed in lost and found. Please see the ELI main office if you have any questions.

## Short Class Schedule for Today

Classes beginning at...	meet...
10:00 am	10:35-10:50 am
11:00 am	10:55-11:10 am
12:00 noon	11:15-11:30 am
1:00 pm	11:35-11:50 am
2:00 pm	11:55-12:10 pm
3:00 pm	12:15-12:30 pm
Closing Ceremony	1:00-3:00 pm

## I-20 Expiration Dates for F-1 Students

By Stacy Ranson

The semester has ended! 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.

## **Stacy's Office Hours Term Break**

I know that some of you may need to see me after the ELI term ends. Remember, if you are planning to leave the U.S. and return to the ELI next semester, I must sign your I-20 before you go. If you need me for this, or for any other reason, please note the following dates and times.

I will be available in my office (M22) during the hours below. I will not be available any other time during the break, and I will not write letters of recommendation or review statements of purpose over the break, so please plan carefully.

Monday, April 15	Tuesday, April 16	Wednesday, April 17
9:00-9:45 am	12:00-1:00 pm	12:00-1:00 pm

## **Italian Film Festival**

On Thursday, April 4 from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Italian Film Festival USA of Pittsburgh will be screening critically acclaimed Italian film at Frick Fine Arts Building, Auditorium (650 Schenley Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15260). Visit the attached website below for a full list of this year's film screenings, times, and locations.

<http://italianfilmfests.org/pittsburgh.html>

Films will be shown in Italian with English subtitles.

## **Late Night Bowling**

On Friday, April 12 from 10 pm – 11:55 pm, come and join with Pitt Program Council at Late Night Bowling. We will be taking a trip to Zone 28 for two hours of bowling (shoes included), 2 games of laser tag, and a \$10 arcade game card! Pizza, drinks, and round-trip transportation included. Tickets are \$5 at the William Pitt Union (WPU) Ticket Office, limit of 2 tickets per ID. All Pitt Program Council events are open to all undergraduate Pitt students with a valid (Oakland) Student ID.

## **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. or request a transfer to a new program.

If you end your study at the ELI before completing level 6, you will have a two-week grace period after your final day of class. This means that you will need to request a transfer to a new program or leave the U.S. within 2 weeks of your last day of study if you do not complete level 6.

If you transfer to a new program at any time, you must begin study at the first available term for the new program. If you transfer within your grace period, you are permitted to be out of school for up to 5 months before beginning the first available term of your new program. Please see Stacy if you have questions about these policies.

## **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.

## **FI Visa Requirement: Travel Signatures**

If you are traveling outside of the U.S. during the April break, and you are returning for the next term, you **MUST** have Stacy sign your I-20 before you leave.

Stacy will not be available after April 17, so you must see her soon if you are traveling. **You will have to cancel travel plans if you do not have Stacy's signature before April 17.**

**No one else at the ELI is able to sign your I-20. See Stacy even if you think you may travel!**

## **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.

**"Practice makes perfect"**

By constantly practicing, you will become better

For example: "The ELI has recognized our students effort this semester. Although the semester has ended, you do not have to stop using English. Remember, **practice makes perfect!**"

