Welcome!

New and returning students alike, we're glad to see you!

Our Director, Megan Forbes, has a message for you:

Welcome students!

On behalf of the faculty, language assistants, staff and administration, I would like to welcome you to the University of Florida English Language Institute. If you are a returning student, welcome back! If you are a new student, we hope you come to love UF as much as we all do. We hope you soon become proud to be a member of the “Gator Nation.”

We hope that in our classes our many years of experience combined with the new research found at an AAU university can help you achieve your goal of learning English. You should know that each and every one of our teachers and language assistants will be doing everything they can to help you achieve your goals. I hope you can tell how much everyone enjoys teaching and learning here. But, no matter how strong a program we have, we can always find ways to improve it. If you have suggestions, please share them with us. We want you to love the classes here as much as we do.

Of course, you are not here simply to attend class – you could have stayed home to do that! The great benefit to studying English in the US is that you are surrounded by English every day. Here at the ELI we provide you with every opportunity to practice English. We have two language assistants (LAs) to help with every level. We have a trip with these LAs every Saturday. We have afternoon activities with LAs every single day after class. We have a conversation partner program. We regularly volunteer in the community. We publish the Student Voices each semester and the ELI Weekly each week. In short, we try to provide every opportunity possible for you to use the language you are learning.

I urge you to take advantage of all of these opportunities. I promise, if you were to speak to all of your friends studying English at other universities, you would not find any program which provides the number of hours of English language practice we have here at the ELI. Please don’t waste this opportunity – get involved outside of class!

So, in closing, Welcome! And always remember…

Speak English and Go Gators!

Questions?

We want all of you to feel as comfortable as possible while you are studying with us here at the ELI. If you have any questions, your teachers, your Language Assistants, our staff members or administrators are here to help you, so please ask us anything.

For specific questions about I-20s and other immigration matters, or university or community college admissions, please see Daryl Bish, our Admissions Coordinator, in 223 Matherly.

For personal problems, questions about insurance and immunization, or apartment concerns, see Victoria Shelly, the Student Life Coordinator, in 223 Matherly.

Deadlines

Thursday, September 8th is an important day for deadlines. Please turn in all required paperwork or you may not be allowed to attend classes. See the office staff in Room 223 Matherly for any questions.

Tuition: If you’re paying with a bank check or money order, please pay before 1:30pm. If you’re paying with a credit card online, please pay before midnight.

Immunization: Proof of immunizations is due by 4:30pm.

Health Insurance: Proof of health insurance is due by 4:30pm. No exceptions.

Drop/Add: The last opportunity to add or drop a class is by 4:30pm.

Weekend Activity

On Saturday, September 3rd, at noon we will be enjoying the Welcome Picnic. Please join us for food, games, and conversation! Bring your friends and family!

Where: Norman Courtyard, in the center of Norman Hall

It is completely FREE!
Manners, Culture, & Grammar

I would like to greet you personally as your ELI Weekly Editor, Christine Voigt. You will receive the Weekly each week during your Reading/Writing class.

As you can see, the ELI Weekly gives you important news about what is happening at the ELI. The Weekly also answers your questions. If you want to know how Americans behave in certain situations or why they do the things they do, ask me. If you want to know how to say something correctly or why we say things the way we do, ask me. You may ask me in person (220A MAT), email me at christinevoigt@ufl.edu, or put them in my mailbox (ELI Office, 223 MAT, box marked Voigt) anytime the office is open.

Quote of the Week

A warm smile is the universal language of kindness.

William Arthur Ward