

Welcome!

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

Dear 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 of 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 **Emily Kirby**, the Student Life Coordinator, in 225F Matherly.

For questions about volunteering or the weekend and afternoon activities, see **Nate Bloemke**, the CIP Coordinator, in 211A Matherly.

Deadlines

Thursday, September 10th 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 Payment: 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 class is by **4:30pm**.

Midterm Picnic

This week, on Saturday, September 5th, we will be enjoying **The Welcome Picnic**.

When: Saturday, September 5th at 12:00 pm.

Where: At Norman Lawn, in front of Norman Hall

Cost: This trip is completely FREE! We'll have food and games, so make sure you come!

Notes from the Office

Labor Day: Monday, September 7th, is Labor Day. There will be no ELI classes and the ELI Main Office will be closed on this day. There will be no RTS bus service this day. Classes will start on Tuesday, September 8th.

Class Attendance: Your attendance is very, very important. Your teachers are taking note of both your absences and your tardies in every class every day.

Withdrawing from the ELI or one course: Students who withdraw from a course or from the ELI after the drop/add deadline will not be able to receive a refund or credit for their courses. Their transcript will have a grade of W (withdraw) by the deadlines published in the Student Guide.

UF Services

Parking: Very important! If you drive to the ELI, you need to purchase a parking decal to park on the UF campus. You'll need to get a letter from the ELI Main Office in Matherly 223 to purchase a Park & Ride decal. If you don't have a parking decal, you are likely to get a very expensive ticket!

Libraries: UF has great libraries and you have full access to them if you need to study. If you want to check out books, you'll need to pay your tuition, get a Gator 1 ID, and get it activated at the Education Library in Norman Hall. You can check out a maximum of 5 books for a week.

Recreational Facilities: UF has a number of gyms and recreational facilities on campus. As ELI students, you are able to use the pools, Lake Wauburg, Florida Gym, O'Connell Center weight rooms, and other outdoor fields and courts for free by showing your Gator 1 card. However, the Student Recreation & Fitness Center, the Southwest Recreation Center, and the Broward Outdoor Recreation Center are funded by UF degree-seeking student activity fees so they are not free. If you want to use these facilities, you need to pay a membership fee. You can talk to Emily if you have questions.

Birthdays

Each week, this section of the *ELI Weekly* will list all of the birthdays for our students and staff that occur during the week.

REMEMBER: in the US, the date of birth is written month/day/year. If you submitted yours as day/month/year on your forms, then it will appear wrong in the *Weekly*. For those of you that this may happen to, we apologize in advance. Please let the office know so it can be fixed on your forms.

Sports and Activities

The Cultural Immersion staff, along with your Language Assistants, are holding regular sports and activities each evening of the week. We also have a trip with these LAs every Saturday. Details will be on the Activities Board outside 211 Matherly and in each week's *Weekly*.

Manners, Culture, and Grammar

I would like to greet you personally as your *ELI Weekly* Editor, Melina Jimenez. 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 can email me at mpjimenez@ufl.edu or put your questions in my mailbox (ELI Office, 223 Matherly, box marked **Jimenez**) anytime the office is open.

Teachers and Language Assistants, make this an activity to get your students thinking. I need more questions!

If you missed an issue of the *Weekly*, you can pick up an extra copy in the ELI Main Office (223 Matherly) or find it online at <http://www.eli.ufl.edu/publications.htm>.

Student Voices

Every semester, we publish a collection of writing by **you**, our students, in the *ELI Student Voices*, edited by **Melina Jimenez**. You may submit anything of your work that you wish. Past submissions have included paragraphs, essays, poetry, creative stories, class projects, and other interesting works on a variety of topics. If you want to turn something in for publication, simply give it to your teacher, or e-mail Melina at mpjimenez@ufl.edu. Include your name and class on your submission. Teachers, this makes for a great project for **all** classes--not just Reading/Writing.

The deadline for submissions is November 20th. Submit early!

Quote of the Week

A warm smile is the universal language of kindness.

William Arthur Ward