

Santa Fe College Admissions Workshop

Santa Fe College is a popular destination for students after they leave the ELI. Located here in Gainesville, Santa Fe College is one of the best community colleges in the country. In fact, it was named the number one community college in the country in 2015, and has been ranked in the top 10 every year since 2012. Many ELI students transfer to Santa Fe College after completing their time at the ELI. In fact, several employees in the Santa Fe College International Student Services department are former ELI students!

If you are planning on attending Santa Fe College or just want to learn more about the application process, the ELI will be hosting representatives from Santa Fe College on **Wednesday, March 20th from 5:15–6:15 in Matherly 214**. You can learn about transferring from the ELI to Santa Fe College and ask any questions you have about applying to universities in the United States. The application deadline for the Summer 2019 semester is quickly approaching!



Notes from the Office

Taxes: If you studied in the United States in 2018, you must file a tax document with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) before April 15th. If you do not, it could hurt your chances to get a visa in the future.

If you are on an F-1 or J visa, did not earn income in the US in 2018, and have been in this country for less than 5 years, you need to fill out Form 8843 available on the IRS website.

If you had on-campus employment in 2018, your situation is more complicated, and you should make an appointment with Daryl to make sure you do everything properly.

Student Voices: It is time to start sending your *Student Voices* submissions to Thomas at tomdolce@ufl.edu. Remember, the *Student Voices* is the ELI's collection of student writing. You can send in anything that you have written this semester! You can send paragraphs, essays, poems, or even presentations from your listening and speaking classes!

Remember to include your name, class, and a title for your piece. The final due date is April 5th, but earlier is better! If you have any questions, you can ask Thomas or your teachers!

The CIP Insider

Thursday Activity–

Dancing with the Gator Salsa Club

This Thursday, you can learn how to dance salsa and bachata with the Gator Salsa club! Whether you are brand new or an expert, come show your moves! Wear your dancing shoes!

When: Thursday, March 21st, from 6:00–8:30

Where: The O'Connell Center practice court. You can find it in the O'Connell Center between gates 3 and 4.

Saturday Activity–

Laser Tag at M2 Battlesports

On Saturday, the ELI will go to M2 Battlesports to play laser tag! Laser tag is a game similar to paintball. During laser tag, you shoot the enemy team with lasers. If you get hit, you are eliminated. The last team remaining is the winner!

Unlike paintball, you don't have to worry about painful paintball hits in laser tag. It is fun for all ages and skill levels.

When: Saturday, March 23rd. Meet at Norman Garage at 4:30.

Where: We will play at M2 Battlesports in Newberry. This is a forested area, so wear protective clothing and closed-toe shoes.

Cost: \$20, cash or credit. You can pay at M2 Battlesports.

Waiver: To play, you must sign a liability waiver. You can find this form on the M2 Battlesports website, or you can sign it when you arrive at the field.

Upcoming Trip—St. Augustine

On Saturday, March 30th, the ELI will be visiting St. Augustine! St. Augustine is the oldest European city in the United States! In fact, it was established in 1565 by Spanish explorers.

St. Augustine is a popular destination for tourists. The ELI will visit St. Augustine's beautiful beach as well as the historic downtown area.

St. Augustine is about 100 minutes away from Gainesville, so we will be taking a bus. If you want to go on this trip, you should purchase your bus pass soon! Bring \$20 cash and your Gator 1 ID to the CIP Office in Matherly 211 in the morning on Monday–Thursday to buy your bus pass.

Culture Questions

Do you have questions about American Culture? The *ELI Weekly* wants to help! Submit your culture questions to Thomas Dolce by email (tomdolce@ufl.edu) or to his mail box (Dolce) in the main office.

Question:

I'm applying to graduate school and I need a letter of recommendation. How do I ask my teacher for a letter of recommendation?

Answer:

You are welcome to ask your ELI teachers for letters of recommendation, but your teachers do not have to say yes. Here are some good strategies to follow to maximize your chances for your teachers to say yes. First, you should check your teacher's syllabus for your class. Many teachers explain their policy for writing letters of recommendation in the syllabus. For example, some teachers will only write letters if you get an "A" grade in their class. Also, you should ask your teacher for a letter long before you need it. If you ask your teacher to write your letter on short notice, they will probably be too busy to do it for you! Finally, you should ask Tiffany for a Letter of Recommendation request form. This form allows your teacher to write about your performance at the ELI. If you follow all these steps, you will likely get a good letter of recommendation!

Useful Expressions of the Week

Phrase One: fill out

...you need to fill out Form 8843 available on the IRS website.

Fill out is a phrasal verb. It means to provide and write the missing information on a form or document. This phrasal verb is very similar in meaning to **fill in**, which has a similar meaning. For example, on a grammar test, you may have a "fill in the blank" section.

Phrase Two: short notice

If you ask your teacher to write your letter on short notice, they will probably be too busy to do it for you!

Short notice means that you do not have much time to prepare for something. In this expression, "notice" means information, and "short" means you have a short amount of time. The opposite of **short notice** is **advance notice**. **Advance notice** means you learn about something a long time before it happens.

Example:

Student: Can you write a letter of recommendation for me? I need it by next week!

Teacher: That is **short notice**, but I think I can do it. Did you **fill out** the Letter of Recommendation request form yet?

Happy birthday!

Wish the following people a happy birthday this week!

Students:

March 20th: Juan Henao Madrigal

March 20th: Ricardo Postiglione Rios

March 20th: Kurt Bruckner Suarez

March 21st: Taihyun Lim

March 25th: Tianqi Yao