

Welcome Students!

New and returning students alike, we are glad you are here!

A message from ELI Director, Dr. Megan Forbes

Welcome to the University of Florida ELI Spring 2019 semester! If you are a new student, I am so happy you are joining us this March. If you are a returning student, welcome back! All of you should know that the ELI is the Intensive English Program at the University of Florida. This means you are going to be spending a lot of time in your classes, with your teachers, with your Language Assistants, doing homework, and participating in trips and activities! We hope all of this can help you achieve your goal of learning more English.



In addition to the teachers and Language Assistants, we have many people at the ELI who are here to help you achieve your goal, and also to make your adjustment to the US and the University of Florida an easy one. If you need any help with anything, please ask! If you have any questions, or even suggestions for improvement, please let us know!

If you are a returning student at the UF ELI, I have a favor to ask of you. Please take the time to go out of your way to help our new students. You must remember how confusing your first few weeks at the ELI were and how difficult English seemed at times. I also have a favor to ask of all students, new and returning. Please remember to speak English! The benefit of studying English in the United States is that you will hear English all of the time. So, please be sure you are not taking that experience away from your fellow students.

On behalf of everyone at the ELI, welcome again, to the Spring 2019 semester. We are glad you are here!

Speak English and *Go Gators!*

Any 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 Assistant Director **Daryl Bish**, in Matherly 223.

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

On Saturday, March 9th, the ELI will have its **welcome picnic!** Please join us for free food, games, and conversation. You will meet your new classmates, teachers, and language assistants! Bring your friends and family and start the semester off on the right foot!

Where: Plaza of the Americas

When: March 9th at 12:00 PM

Weekend Activity

Important Deadlines

Wednesday, March 13th, is an important day for deadlines. Please turn in all required paperwork or you may not be allowed to attend classes. See Tiffany, Min, or Jen in the main office, MAT 223, for 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 on March 13th.

Immunizations: Proof of immunizations is due by 4:30pm on March 13th.

Health Insurance: Proof of health insurance is due by 4:30p.m. on March 13th. For questions about your health insurance, see Victoria in the main office.

Drop/Add: The last opportunity to add or drop a class is by 4:30p.m. on March 13th. You can do this on the myELI website.

Reminders

Phone Home: If you haven't let your family know you are here, please do it as soon as possible.

Smoking: There is no smoking ANYWHERE on the UF campus. You should not smoke on campus, including the courtyard outside of Matherly Hall or near any other building on the UF campus.

Activities: The Cultural Immersion staff, along with your Language Assistants, will have 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 Matherly 211, in each week's *Weekly*, and on the myELI website.

Time Change: Daylight saving time starts on March 10th. On this day, we will change our clocks ahead one hour. Your phone and computer should change automatically, but you may need to change your watches or other devices.

Notes from the Office

Stay informed: Check your email/junk mail/phone for messages from the ELI! Set up your voicemail to get any important messages. Download the **GATOR SAFE** app to receive important notifications about UF.

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

Manners, Culture, and Useful Expressions

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

The *ELI Weekly* gives you important news about what is happening at the ELI. The *Weekly* also answers your questions. If you have questions about American culture or people, let me know! Did you hear an English expression that you don't know? Ask the *ELI Weekly*! You may ask me in person in my office (MAT 220B), email me at tomdolce@ufl.edu, or put them in my mailbox (ELI Office, MAT 223, box marked Dolce) anytime the office is open.

Expression of the Week: On the first page, you read the following sentence:

Bring your friends and family and start the semester off on the right foot!

Start off is a separable phrasal verb. It means *to begin* or *do the first step in an activity or process*. In this example, we are beginning the semester. For more information about phrasal verbs, ask your grammar teacher!

On the right foot is an idiom that means *to start something in a good way*. Its opposite is **on the wrong foot**, which means to start something in a bad way. Do you have these expressions in your language?

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 birth date is written month/day/year. If you submitted yours as day/month/year on your forms, then it will appear wrong in the *Weekly*. Please let the office know so it can be fixed on your forms.

If you don't want your birthday listed, let Thomas Dolce know!