

The ELI Weekly

Welcome!



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

Dear students,

Welcome to the University of Florida ELI Fall C 2020 Semester. We

are excited to both welcome back returning students and to welcome new students to the University of Florida

All of you 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 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 new classes, Zoom, and Gainesville as easy as possible. If you need any help with anything, please ask. Even if you are not in

Gainesville, we are available to you via phone, email, and Zoom. You are not alone!

As we continue our adventure together into the world of remote teaching and learning and online activities, I'd also like to ask for your help. If you have suggestions on how we can improve our new remote classes or online activities, please let us know as soon as you have an idea. Don't wait until the end of the semester.

On behalf of everyone at the ELI, welcome again, to the Fall C, 2020 semester. We are glad you are here!

Notes from the Office

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!

- For specific questions about I-20s and other immigration matters, or university or community college admissions, please email or call **Daryl Bish** (dbish@eli.ufl.edu), our Assistant Director.
- For personal problems, questions about insurance and immunization, or apartment concerns, email or call **Victoria Dolce** (vcshelly@ufl.edu), the Student Life Coordinator.

Deadlines: As a student, you have many important documents to submit.

- **Tuition is due Thursday, September 10th at 1:30 p.m.** Credit or debit cards must be used online.
- The last opportunity to **add or drop a class is Thursday, September 10th, by 4:30 p.m.**
- **Proof of Health insurance is due Thursday, September 10th, by 4:30 p.m.**
- **Proof of immunizations is due Thursday, September 10th, by 4:30 p.m.**

If you miss any of these deadlines, email **Jennifer Vann** (jvann@eli.ufl.edu) or **Victoria Dolce** (vcshelly@ufl.edu) right away, or you could be removed from classes or charged a late fee! Also, students who drop a class or withdraw from the ELI after the drop/add deadline on Thursday, September 10 will not be able to receive a refund or credit for their courses and their transcript will have a grade of W (withdraw).

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is a requirement of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for students on the F-1 visa. It is also required by the ELI because you cannot learn English if you do not come to class regularly. For these reasons, the ELI has the following attendance policy:

- If you miss more than 31 hours (25%) of class, you can no longer attend ELI classes and your I-20 will be terminated.
- If you miss more than 19 hours (15%) of classes, or fail any of your classes, you will not receive a semester certificate and you will be allowed to return to the English Language Institute the next semester ONLY on a probationary basis.

If you miss five days in a row in all of your classes without informing the English Language Institute prior to or immediately after the five days, you can be expelled from the ELI.

CIP Activities

Saturday September 5th - Online Activity - Guess Who Icebreaker Activity - 6pm:

- Join us for some fun getting to know you guessing games!
- <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/91331139574?pwd=Q0Z4ZUt2YmpBOUd1SUl0NE54RfNXUT09>
Meeting ID: 913 3113 9574
Passcode: guesswho

Saturday September 5th - Campus Photo Walk - 12 - 2pm OR 2 - 4pm:

- Join us for a fun photo hunt around campus with students and LAs!
- Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C4BA9A823A02-campus>
- You MUST sign up, attend CIP overview, and be campus cleared to attend this activity
- At this activity, you must wear a mask and stay 6 feet apart

Stay tuned for next Week's Weekly to see what Saturday events we will have!

Conversation Partners:

Conversation partners are English speaking volunteers who will meet with you once a week to practice English and be your friend! If you want a conversation partner this semester, please email conversationpartners@eli.ufl.edu

Invitation from the Editor

Greeting from your *ELI Weekly* Editor, Maya Shastri!

You will receive the *Weekly* each week this semester during your Reading/Writing class with important information about the ELI.

The *Weekly* also answers **your** questions about manners, culture, and grammar. Email your questions to me at mshastri@ufl.edu, and you can see your questions (and the answers) in the *Weekly*.

I would like to invite you to submit short (1-2 paragraphs) reports about the ELI activities you like or other events in Gainesville. Tell everyone about your experiences! Email me at mshastri@ufl.edu.

Tuesday September 8th - Downtown Hang Out (In Person) - 6 - 8pm

- Walk around downtown and chat in BoDiddly Park with friends
- Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C4BA9A823A02-downtown2>
- You MUST sign up, attend CIP overview, and be campus cleared to attend this activity
- At this activity, you must wear a mask and stay 6 feet apart

Wednesday September 9th - Coffee and Culture Talk (Zoom) - 6 - 8pm

- Join us this week for our Back to School discussion theme!
- <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/99582032927?pwd=U1FOQ1pjaiswa3huUk41cnBuMEFiQT09>
Meeting ID: 995 8203 2927
Passcode: 926123

Thursday September 10th - Movie Night - 6 - 9pm

- Come vote on a movie and watch it with LAs and ELI friends as we chat in the chatbox! Stick around for a fun discussion afterward! Stay tuned for next week's Weekly to see what movie choices we have.

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/92962712031?pwd=dnZhVnh5WTJxWE5FNGZaRndyOFN0UT09>
Meeting ID: 929 6271 2031
Passcode: movienight

Each week, 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, email me (mshastri@ufl.edu).

If you missed an issue of the *Weekly*, you can find it online at <https://eli.ufl.edu/news-publications/>.

Quote of the Week

Throw your dreams into space like a kite, and you do not know what it will bring back, a new life, a new friend, a new love, a new country.

-Anaïs Nin



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