Summer Classes: Do You Need Reduced Course Load Authorization?

Full time enrollment is 9 credits for grad students and 12 credits for undergrads. You only need to submit a Reduced Course Load Request (through My OIS) for the Summer Term for the following situations.

- This is your last term at Pitt in your current program.
  - For example, you will be completing all course requirements by the end of August but do not plan to register full time.  OR
  - For example, you will be starting a new degree program at Pitt in the fall and you are taking classes in the summer to complete your current program.
- Summer 2013 is your first term on a new I-20 or DS-2019 and you will not enroll full time. This includes changing degree levels.
- You will not be taking classes in the fall. If you are planning to take a leave of absence for the fall term (and only the fall term), you should request a Reduced Course Load.

For more info about RCL, visit OIS' [website](#).
As Heard on Facebook...

Pitt Abroad
58 minutes ago near Pittsburgh

Team SAO is wishing the best of luck to our first Panther Program participants out the gate this summer. Safe travels Pitt in Prague & Krakow cohort!

Rob Mucklo shared English Language Institute, University of Pittsburgh’s album.
April 24

Thank you to everyone at Pitt Global Ties for organizing this event! We had fun :)

Pittsburgh International Folk Festival (5 photos)
"La Diablada" from Chile. A special thanks goes to Grupo Copihue, a Chilean dance group in Pittsburgh, for lending us so many beautiful traditional Chilean outfits.

Find OIS on Facebook: www.facebook.com/oispitt

Experience America Picnic—Thursday, June 13th

Save the date for our Experience America Picnic to be hosted on the Front Lawn of the William Pitt Union! We plan to gather informally to celebrate the start of summer and experience an American Picnic. Lunch will be provided 11 AM—2 PM.

RSVP required via: www.eventbrite.com/event/5758822794

Experience America Schedule: www.ois.pitt.edu/new-here/experience-america/
CONGRATULATIONS,
international student graduates!

We hope you enjoyed your studies here at Pitt and we are sure you will be successful in all your future endeavors. Please remember that if your program has completed and your I-20/DS-2019 program end date is in the future, OIS will shorten your program end date to reflect the completion date of your program. Congratulations again and good luck! Hail to Pitt!

CCLD Reminders and Updates

★ The Global Compass Handbook has been updated on the Global Ties website. For the direct link to the Compass, please click the link: http://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/PDFsandForms/CCLD/globalcompass.pdf

★ The Pitt International Student Association (PISA) has been changed to Panther Global Village. Please take a look at their new Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/114357895433724/

★ Undergrad students are encouraged to join the Global Ties page for events, summer updates, and fun! Find us on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/Pitt.GlobalTies/

★ Graduate students are encouraged to join the international student cyber support group International Graduate Global Ties (IGGT). See the Facebook page here: https://www.facebook.com/Pitt.Grad.GlobalTies
Get Involved Pittsburgh—Venture Outdoors

Experience Pittsburgh’s parks, trails, waterways and more with Venture Outdoors!

What is Venture Outdoors?
Venture Outdoors is a membership-based nonprofit organization that makes it easy for people of all ages and skill levels to get outside. With more than 8,000 members and 70,000 people who go on programs each year, it’s easy to meet new friends who share a love of the outdoors.

Venture Outdoors offers more than 500 public programs year-round in activities like biking, hiking, kayaking, fishing, rock climbing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and more. Venture Outdoors also hosts annual community festivals to spark interest in outdoor activities and highlight the region’s outdoor recreational amenities.

Activities with Venture Outdoors
Venture Outdoors’s public programs are fun, easy and diverse, with activities taking place at local, county and state parks, trails, rivers, lakes and green spaces throughout western PA. From Moraine State Park in the north region to the Laurel Highlands east of Pittsburgh, 200 volunteers with extensive outdoor experience lead programs including:

- Specialty Beverage and Food Hikes
- Doggie Day Treks
- Beginner and Intermediate Paddling Programs
- Fireworks Paddles
- Eco-tour and History Paddles
- Programs for Active, Aging Adults
- Easy Walks to Advanced Hikes
- Educational, Nature and Local History Hikes
- Family-Friendly Programs and Tyke Hikes
- Overnight Bike Rides on the Great Allegheny Passage
- Urban Bike Tours around Pittsburgh
- Outdoor Trainings for Volunteers

See Upcoming Programs and Learn More!
View our web site Activities Calendar to check out upcoming activities and sign up online at www.ventureoutdoors.org.
Kayak Pittsburgh

Venture Outdoors also owns and operates Kayak Pittsburgh, a kayaking rental concession open May through October. No experience is necessary, and most people can learn to maneuver our flat-water kayaks within 10 to 15 minutes.

Kayak Pittsburgh has three convenient paddling locations: on the North Shore, under the 6th Street Bridge; in Millvale, at Millvale Riverfront Park; and in North Park, at the North Park Boathouse.

Kayak Pittsburgh’s North Shore location opens weekends beginning May 4, 2013. All locations will be open seven days per week beginning May 25, 2013.

For more information, visit http://www.kayakpittsburgh.org/.

Join us in a free celebration of the outdoors for everyone:

Venture Outdoors Festival

May 18, Point State Park

On May 18, Venture Outdoors hosts the Venture Outdoors Festival sponsored by DICK’S Sporting Goods at Point State Park in downtown Pittsburgh. Attendees can try out activities like kayaking, dragon boating, fishing (no license or equipment required), bike rides, a yoga tent, a climbing wall, and a variety of outdoor vendors and demonstrations.


Visit their website: ventureoutdoors.org

We make it easy to get outside!
English as a Second Language
Community Education Courses Summer 2013

All courses are non-credit and offered each term (Fall, Spring and Summer). Tuition prices do not include textbooks.

Campus Conversation Course (CCC)

Course description:
- for low-intermediate to advanced speakers of English (equivalent to ELI levels 3, 4 and 5)
- informal conversation practice

Required Text: Textbook information will be provided at registration.

Dates: May 20 – July 29

Time: Classes meet for 2 ½ hours each week on campus. Exact schedule is distributed at registration.

Registration Fee: $40 (non-refundable)

Registration Deadline: You must register in person yourself and take a short oral placement exam on May 15 in Parkvale Building, Room 112, 200 Meyran Ave. Late registration is accepted until June 14.

Contact: ccc@pitt.edu

TOEFL Prep

Course description:
- prepare learners for the iBT TOEFL by focusing on reading, listening, speaking & writing skills
- for intermediate to advanced speakers of English (equivalent to ELI levels 4 and 5)


Daytime TOEFL Prep

Dates: May 22 – June 26
Time: Wednesdays, 10 am – 3 pm (lunch break 12-1 pm)
Price: $375 ($300 for students in the ELI’s intensive program)

Registration Deadline: May 21

Evening TOEFL Prep

Dates:
- Module 1 (Reading & Writing) May 14 – June 18
- Module 2 (Listening & Speaking) June 25 – July 30
Time: Tuesdays 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Price: $150 per module

Registration Deadline:
- Module 1: May 13
- Module 2: June 17

General English Evening Course

Course description:
- practice of general English language skills applicable to everyday, work, and academic settings
- focus on improving speaking and listening skills, and integrates pronunciation, grammar, reading, and writing to achieve this goal
- for high intermediate or advanced learners of English (at least 52 on the iBT TOEFL)

Required Text: Northstar Listening & Speaking 5, Third Edition

Dates: May 14–Aug. 1 (no class July 4)
Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30 pm - 7:20 pm
Price: $870, plus application fee and university fees

Application Deadline:
- May 6
- All students must take a placement test May 9, 5:30-6:30 pm.

For the General Evening Course, University of Pittsburgh faculty scholarships may be available for eligible full-time faculty and research associates and their husbands and wives. For more scholarship information, contact Faculty Records at 412-624-4232 or visit their office in G-39 Cathedral of Learning.

University of Pittsburgh
English Language Institute

Parkvale Building, Room M13, 200 Meyran Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-624-5901 • elipitt@pitt.edu • www.eli.pitt.edu/geninfo/programs

For an application and more information about these and other courses, visit www.eli.pitt.edu/geninfo/programs. The English Language Institute (ELI) also offers an accredited intensive ESL program in which students may study part-time or full-time (4 to 20 hours per week). The ELI can issue I-20s for an F-1 student visa for students studying 20 hours per week in the intensive program.
Alison’s Zappa-tite: **Kebab Factory**

I recently ventured to a restaurant that I had never been to before – Kebab Factory at 121 Oakland Ave. The restaurant itself is small with few tables, but can also be a great place to order food to go (especially with the warm weather approaching to go sit and eat outside!). I absolutely love Mediterranean cuisine, so I was excited to try their fare! My fellow diner, Cynthia and I split the mixed appetizer platter which included hummus, babaghanush, tabuli, cacik (yogurt with diced cucumbers), grape leaves, and potato salad. Everything was delicious, but for next time, I think would simply get hummus with pita and grape leaves as an appetizer because those two were my favorites of the appetizers. I could tell that the food was very fresh and prepared with the right blend of spices and ingredients. For my main course, I had the chicken gyro wrap. I would recommend getting this sandwich as a wrap because it was easier to eat and less messy then a typical pita sandwich would be. The chicken was perfectly cooked, not at all dry and had a delicious marinade. The wrap included tomatoes and lettuce and accompanied with a creamy tzatziki sauce. There are several more dishes I would love to try next time and the prices were very reasonable for the portion provided. I definitely would recommend this as an enjoyable and healthy lunch place to go in Oakland!

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**International Children’s Festival**

On May 15-19, take your kids to the **International Children’s Festival** at Schenley Plaza! The festival will include:

★ Child appropriate theater performances at outdoor stage
★ 30+ FREE hands-on educational and cultural activities
★ Specialty tours of Nationality Rooms at the University of Pittsburgh
★ Storytelling inside the Carnegie Library
★ Festival Food ★ Roving Artists

Great experience for the whole family!

Lauren Panetti from OIS enjoying the petting zoo!
Automated I-94 Card Process

There is a new process for getting your I-94 card. You will no longer be receiving the white card when you enter the United States. From this point forward, you will have an electronic I-94 card instead. This is great news because you will no longer be able to lose your I-94 card and need to pay hundreds of dollars to get a new one! You will need to print this electronic version for a number of different applications, such as OPT or to get a Driver’s License, but you can always easily access this information. There is additional information on the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) website about I-94s, including a Frequently Asked Questions section, or you could read the I-94 Fact Sheet provided by CBP.

When you enter the United States:

- You will meet with a Customs and Border Protection agent.
- They will collect all of your I-94 information and stamp your passport.
- You will be able to access your I-94 card at http://www.cbp.gov/i94 (See sample below)
- Click Print and save the I-94 card as a PDF.
- Upload your I-94 card in My OIS (Biographical Information > Update Immigration Documents)
Some Pitt international students were recently approached by different government agents with requests for interviews. In order to help you feel as prepared as possible if this happens to you, please follow our recommendations below:

- **If someone contacts you on the telephone or through email claiming to be from a government agency:**
  - Ask them for:
    - Their name
    - Their agency
    - Their purpose for contacting you
  - Ask them to contact OIS to request an interview.
  - Do not give them any personal information or payment.

- **If someone comes to your home or approaches you in person:**
  - Call 911 and the police will verify the person’s government credentials.
  - Contact OIS and we will ask General Counsel to be present at your interview.

In the United States, one group dedicated to helping people understand their rights is the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Even though you are not American citizens, you are still protected under the same laws. The ACLU has created a [website to help non-citizens understand their right in the U.S.](http://www.aclu.org/national-security/know-your-rights-when-encountering-law-enforcement). Here is some of the information from their website:

If government agents question you, it is important to understand your rights. You should be careful about what you say when approached by federal, state or local law enforcement officials. If you give answers, they can be used against you in a criminal, immigration, or civil case.

Over the past two years, the FBI, for example, has significantly increased its use of “voluntary” interviews – especially within specific racial, ethnic, and religious communities – often encouraging interviewees to serve as informants in their communities.

The ACLU’s *Know Your Rights* booklet provides effective and useful guidance in a user-friendly question and answer format. The booklet addresses what rights you have when you are stopped, questioned, arrested, or searched by federal, state or local law enforcement officers. This booklet is for citizens and non-citizens with extra information for non-citizens in a separate section. Another section covers what can happen to you at airports and other points of entry into the United States. The last section discusses concerns you may have related to your charitable contributions and religious or political beliefs. The booklet tells you about your basic rights. It is not a substitute for legal advice. You should contact an attorney if you have been arrested or believe that your rights have been violated.

This free booklet is available in English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Urdu, and Farsi. Booklets in these languages are available for [download here](http://www.aclu.org/national-security/know-your-rights-when-encountering-law-enforcement).

May Market

In honor of spring and National Public Gardens Day, celebrate at Phipps Conservatory’s 77th annual May Market, a bustling marketplace where Phipps horticulturists, local garden clubs, nurseries, farms and other vendors will come together to offer a wide selection of plants and more for your garden from 9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. on May 10 and 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. on May 11. May Market is free and open to the public, and Conservatory admission is 50-percent off during event hours. It’s the perfect Mother’s Day weekend outing!

Among the offerings you can expect to find are organic herbs and vegetable seedlings; tropical plants and succulents; low-maintenance perennials and shrubs on Phipps’ Top 10 Sustainable Plant Lists; native and rain garden plants; and many other seasonal favorites. Also available for sale will be everything from organic soil and landscaping materials to botanical art and natural body care products.

Phipps is located at the entrance of Schenley Park at 700 Frank Curto Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15213. There is free parking and an easy walk from Oakland!

Subscription to the OIS Monthly Updates and Global Perspective

If you do not currently receive the OIS Monthly Update emails, but you would like to, please visit the OIS News and Media website to subscribe! If you have family members that are interested in subscribing, they can do so as well. All anyone needs is an email address to get all the monthly OIS news and announcements!
My Pittsburgh Story Photo Contest Winners

Submissions were collected for the My Pittsburgh Story Photo Contest from February 26 through April 1st. The contest was sponsored by OIS and Pitt’s English Language Institute. Thank you to all who submitted photographs! Winning photos and other selected images will be assembled into a calendar to be offered for sale later this year. Details coming soon!

The winning submission for the My Culture in Pittsburgh category is “Turkish Tea”, the image to the right, taken by Sevinc Alkan, pictured below, a PhD student in Human Genetics from Turkey. Congratulations Sevinc!

The winning submission for the My Pittsburgh Culture category is the image to the left, taken by Lin Lin, pictured above, a staff member in the East Asian Languages Department from China. Congratulations Lin!
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

5th – Pittsburgh Marathon Event, Cinco de Mayo, & Kati Von Lehman’s Birthday!

12th – Mother’s Day

13th – Summer classes start

15th– Summer 4 & 6 week session add/drop date

17th – Summer add/drop date

27th – Memorial Day

June

1st – Melissa Reinert’s Birthday!

13th – OIS Experience America Picnic Event

16th – Father’s Day

20th – Alison Zappa’s Birthday!

26th – Diane Saran’s Birthday!

ONGOING

Every Friday OIS hosts a session on Optional Practical Training (OPT) from 2PM—3PM. You can register for the OPT Info Session here.