



School of Language, Education, and Culture
English Language Institute

English Language Institute
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First Step in Becoming an ELI Student
Instructions
Academic Year 2022-2023

Dear ELI Applicant,

Thank you for contacting the English Language Institute at Gallaudet University. We provide a full-time, intensive instructional program in English as a Second Language, American Sign Language, and cultural studies for international and domestic deaf and hard of hearing adults. The ELI welcomes students who wish to increase their language skills in order to qualify for admission to university study or to enhance their professional development. Hearing adults who wish to pursue a deafness-related university major or profession are also welcome.

Good luck on completing the ELI application process, which consists of four steps, (1) academic qualifications, (2) screening tests and interview, (3) financial qualifications, and (4) ELI admission.

To save you time, we have included all the instructions you will need in this enclosed document for filling out the ELI application for the academic qualifications step. As you collect and complete the required documents, mail them to:

Gallaudet University
English Language Institute, HMB E253
800 Florida Avenue NE
Washington, DC 20002-3695 USA

If you have any questions about the ELI application, please email us at eli.office@gallaudet.edu, call us at (202) 651-5721, or fax us at (202) 448-6954.

Regards,
Dr. Helen Thumann, Director
School of Language, Education, and Culture



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What is the ELI?

The **English Language Institute (ELI)**, a unit under the School of Language, Education, and Culture, provides an English as a Second Language program for American and international deaf and hard of hearing students. Bilingual instruction in both American Sign Language and written English provides a multicultural environment for ELI students to achieve academic, professional, and personal language goals.

➤ Program Priorities

- Provide the highest quality instruction;
- Prepare students to enroll in a post-secondary academic program or return to the world of work as soon as possible;
- Instill the confidence necessary for success in academic and social environments.

We strive to meet these priorities through the use of professionally trained instructors; continual program review to incorporate the best available methods; small class sizes; an intensive program with 18+ classroom hours each week; personal attention to individual needs; and the establishment of a strong sense of community among students and staff.

➤ Gallaudet University

Gallaudet University is the world's only liberal arts university serving primarily deaf and hard of hearing students. Established in 1864, Gallaudet has grown from a small college to a multifaceted university and the world's greatest resource on deafness. Located in the heart of Washington DC, Gallaudet offers academic programs leading to undergraduate and graduate degrees in many fields.

➤ The ELI Approach

Learning English at the ELI is intensive, interactive, and integrated in a rich cultural context. Full time students spend over 18 hours each week in classes, excluding optional classes and tutoring. Students are expected to be responsible for and actively involved in their learning. Subjects are taught in a global, coordinated, and bilingual fashion with an emphasis on visual approaches to learning.



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➤ Diversity Statement

Gallaudet University is a unique institution. Chartered by the United States Congress in 1864 with the mission of offering higher education to deaf and hard of hearing individuals, it has since become a global leader of a distinctive community. Just as the population of the nation has changed and continues to change, so too the population of deaf and hard of hearing individuals has changed and continues to change. Deafness is diverse and dynamic. Deaf and hard of hearing persons include people of all experiences and backgrounds.

Gallaudet University has a responsibility to an increasingly diverse deaf and hard of hearing population. Gallaudet University must do more than simply address diversity to survive. Deaf and hard of hearing individuals were long denied equal opportunity, solely because they were deaf or hard of hearing. Such injustice was often compounded by further discrimination on the basis of race, gender, and other aspects of personal identity.

Gallaudet not only acknowledges the problems of the past and responds to the practical circumstances of the present, but also understands that our shared future is guided by basic principles of fairness, mutual respect, and commitment to each other. Gallaudet will reach out, in the United States and around the world, to deaf and hard of hearing persons everywhere. Deafness knows no borders.

Gallaudet University as an institution embraces diversity. A university especially has an obligation to be a place where all views can be shared freely and any belief can be discussed respectfully, allowing the exchange of ideas to flourish. Accordingly, Gallaudet will integrate diversity into every aspect of its operations. Gallaudet's excellence and survival depends on respecting, honoring and embracing the diversity that exists within the university community.

(Adapted from source: <https://www.gallaudet.edu/student-affairs/student-handbook/diversity-statement-and-guidelines>)

Gallaudet University is an equal opportunity institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, hearing status, disability, covered veteran status, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, source of income, place of business or residence, pregnancy, childbirth, or any other unlawful basis.

***What is the ELI?
An opportunity for YOU!***



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➤ What to Expect for the ELI Admissions Process

The ELI provides screening tests geared toward placing qualified ELI prospects in English Levels IV-VI. The screening tests serve the ELI administration as a guide to determining whether to admit the prospect to the ELI and how long a student may stay at the ELI.

There are four steps to the ELI application process:

- First Step: Academic Qualifications
- Second Step: Screening Tests and Interview
- Third Step: Financial Qualifications
- Fourth Step: ELI Admission

The screening results are for those who are qualified for levels IV to VI admissions only.

The ELI also provides qualifying tests to determine if an ELI student is ready to enter university studies. The duration of stay at the ELI program is highly individual and depends on prior existing language skills in both English and in the mother tongue. It is possible an ELI student may stay for only one semester or for up to three and half years. Students entering the ELI program with higher English skills tend to qualify for admission to university study more quickly than those with less skill.

At the end of each semester, ELI students can take the ACT test, and if they achieve passing scores, then they can apply for admission to an undergraduate program at Gallaudet University. For students who are interested in applying for graduate school at Gallaudet University, they can make arrangements to take the TOEFL test after they complete their studies at the ELI program.



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➤ Admissions Requirements

Please note that admission to the ELI does not constitute admission to the undergraduate or graduate school at Gallaudet University.

Scores on the ACT, SAT, TOEFL, or any other standardized examination are NOT required for admission to the ELI. All ELI applicants will undergo an in-house screening set of tests. During ELI Student Orientation, students take placement exams that are used to gauge proficiency levels and place students into appropriate class levels. Admission criteria are listed below.

- Both international and domestic applicants can be admitted.
- Has finished high school, college, or the highest secondary schooling possible in their home country. Transcripts should include some form of separate writing class and reading class, mathematics, history, science, and geography classes. These classes represent a liberal arts education. Grades must be at or above the passing or satisfactory rating.
- Deaf or hard of hearing applicants are eligible for admission. Hearing people who plan to major in deaf-related fields or hearing professionals who work with deaf or hard of hearing clients are eligible.
- Age 17 or older

To meet the admissions criteria during the screening process, the following scores need to be achieved by the ELI prospect:

- 70% or better score on the Raven's Progressive Matrices, which assess learning capabilities and visual logic
- 70% or better score on the English Writing Test (EWT), which assess writing, logic flow, grammar, and reading comprehension skills
- 70% or better score on the Sign Language Interview, which assess basic American Sign Language skills

Only qualified applicants who passed the screening tests for Levels IV to VI can proceed to Step 3 - Financial Qualifications.



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➤ Readmissions Requirements

If the applicant for readmission has been absent from the ELI program for more than one year, then the applicant needs to show evidence of academic activity that occurred during the absence in order to qualify for readmission. An applicant can request an exception to this requirement if a letter explaining the reason(s) for the absence is submitted with the application.

Only qualified applicants for readmission who passed the screening tests for Levels IV to VI can proceed to Step 3 - Financial Qualifications.

➤ Application Deadlines

International and domestic ELI applicants have different deadlines due to Homeland Security requirements for international applicants. In addition, the international deadline also takes into consideration that new international students need more time to apply for a F-1 or J-1 visa at their American embassy or consulate. Most visa applications need about two months to be processed and granted. Only after the new international student has been granted a visa can the flight ticket be purchased. There is no time-saving measure that can be done to make this international process go quicker.

➤ Application Deadlines for International Applicants

Fall Semester: If you plan to enter the ELI in the Fall semester, we must receive all required application documents by May 30.

Spring Semester: To enter in the Spring semester, we must receive your application documents by October 30.

➤ Application Deadlines for Domestic Applicants

Fall Semester: If you plan to enter the ELI in the Fall semester, we must receive all required application documents by July 15.

Spring Semester: To enter in the Spring semester, we must receive your application documents by December 15.



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➤ Applying to the ELI – Academic Qualifications

The academic qualifications submitted with the ELI application are reviewed after the ELI application and supporting documents have been submitted. We provide screening tests and a sign language interview to ELI prospects who have academically qualified. If the prospect passes both steps, then financial qualifications submitted with the ELI application are reviewed. Academic, screening, and financial approvals need to be secured in order to gain admission to the English Language Institute. Only ESL levels IV-VI are still offered and is subject to sufficient enrollment.

➤ Checklist of Required Documents

The ELI application form and instructions may be downloaded from the ELI web site:

<http://www.gallaudet.edu/english-language-institute/eli-admissions/apply-to-the-eli>

1. **ELI Application Form:** When filling out the application form, please write clearly, thank you;
2. **Application Fee:** The ELI application fee is non-refundable. There is a link available to pay the ELI application fee online with a credit/debit card:
https://quikpayasp.com/gallaudet/commerce_manager/payer.do?orderType=ELIApplicationFees
3. **Official Identification:** Please see instructions below;
4. **Audiogram:** If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you will need to submit an audiogram. Hearing applicants do not need to submit an audiogram;
5. **Secondary School Transcripts and Evaluation:** Please see instructions below;
6. **Secondary School Diploma:** a copy of an official document with the name of the secondary school, your name, the date of graduation or completion, and official signatures;
7. **Two Letters of Recommendation:** from school officials or instructors who know you well or if you work, from your supervisor;
8. **Goal Statement:** The applicant needs to complete the goal statement, not a third party;

➤ Sending ELI Application Forms

Mail the completed forms to:

Gallaudet University
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After the ELI receives your ELI application documents, they will be reviewed to see if the ELI application is complete. If there are any missing documents, you will be informed via email.

➤ **Ethnicity**

The ethnicity question on the ELI application is optional. Applicants are not required to fill in this section.

➤ **Official Identification**

Official identification is used to determine if the ELI applicant is an international applicant or a domestic applicant. Please note that the official identification document needs to be valid and has an expiration date of more than six months.

International applicants are required to provide a passport copy due to federal regulations. Official identification is also used to determine if the ELI applicant is qualified for domestic tuition rates.

The domestic tuition rate is one half of the international tuition rate. US citizens and permanent residents are qualified for domestic tuition rates.

For international applicants: please make a copy of the page in your passport where your picture is located. The birth date should also be part of this passport page as well.

For US citizens: please make a copy of one of the following documents:

- Passport
- Driver's license
- State identification card
- Birth certificate
- School ID card
- Voter card
- Property tax payment
- Utility bill

For permanent residents: please submit a copy of your permanent residency card (green card).



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➤ Secondary School Transcripts and Evaluation

Definitions of primary school, secondary school, and tertiary school are listed below.

1. Primary school usually consists of grades from 1st to 8th grades (i.e. levels). Students typically attend primary school beginning at age five and ending at age fourteen.
2. Secondary school or high school usually consists of grades from 9th to 12th grades. Students typically attend secondary school beginning at age fourteen and ending at age eighteen in order to obtain a diploma or a certificate of completion.
3. Tertiary school usually consists of four or five years as an undergraduate student at a college or university. Students typically attend tertiary school at the age of 18 or older in order to obtain a bachelor's degree. Tertiary school also includes graduate school, which students typically attend for two or three years in order to obtain a master's degree.

Secondary School Transcripts: Secondary school or high school transcripts are required for the ELI application. Transcripts are official documents with dates of attendance (at least three years' worth), classes taken, and grades received on them. In general, technical schools or vocational schools do not provide a liberal arts education. If a transcript from a technical or vocational school has academic classes, it may be acceptable. Transcripts should include some form of separate writing class and reading class, math, history, science, and geography classes. These classes represent a liberal arts education necessary for success at Gallaudet University. Grades must be at or above the passing or satisfactory rating.

If you had a private tutor for home-schooling, you need to prove with a GED test at an American embassy that you have acquired the equivalent of a high school liberal arts education. The results of the GED test need to be submitted with the ELI application.

Tertiary School Transcripts: Transcripts from a liberal arts college or university supersede your secondary school transcript. If you have a college degree already, please send your college transcripts. In this case, you will not need to send your secondary school transcripts. Please send a copy of the college degree certificate as well.

Translation and Evaluation Requirements:

If your transcripts are not in English, you will need to submit official English translations from an outside translation agency. You will need to submit your transcripts to the World Education Services (WES) at <https://www.wes.org/> to get their evaluation.



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➤ Any Questions?

If you have any questions about the ELI application instructions, please feel free to send an email to us at eli.office@gallaudet.edu.

The ELI FAQ webpage may also have some answers to some other questions you may have. The link is below.

<http://www.gallaudet.edu/english-language-institute/eli-admissions/eli-faq>