**Frequently Asked Questions:**

**Q1: What is your criteria for admission to the ELI program?**

A1: Solid academic background in all four traditional chemistry subareas (analytical, organic, inorganic, and physical); potential to be successful in chemistry-related graduate (Master and PhD) programs in English speaking countries; potential to be an effective teaching and/or research assistant in chemistry and related areas. Students must also have a minimum TOEFL iBT score of 61 or IELTS score of 5.5.

**Q2: What is the admission process?**

A2: It is a two-step process.  The International Institute will first screen a student’s application package to ensure the student has adequate financial support for study as well as the basic English skills to be successful in the ELI program.  The Department of Chemistry will evaluate an applicant’s potential to be successful in the graduate program.

**Q3: What do I need to include in my application package?**

A3: The application package must include:

Full-Time Application

Copy of passport

Educational Transcript

3 reference letters

TOFEL Score – (minimum TOEFL iBT score of 61 or IELTS score of 5.5)

Documentation of Funding Sources (less than 6 months old)

$75 USD nonrefundable application fee

$20 USD nonrefundable tuition deposit

\*Note: If accepted to the program, an express mail fee of $75 will be required to mail the I-20.

**Q4: Where do I send my application package?**

A4: Application packages should be emailed to [eli@msstate.edu](mailto:eli@msstate.edu). The application’s credit card form should be submitted separately by fax. The fax number is 662-325-4826.

**Q5. When must my application package be submitted?**

A5: Application packages are due to ELI by June 1. Students will be sent a Notification of Acceptance no later than June 15.

**Q6: As a one year ELI student, what on-campus benefits will I have?**

A6:A wide range of services and campus resources are available, including the following:

MSU email address and affiliate ID card

Access to Mitchell Memorial Library, the Sanderson Center gym, and computer labs

On-campus wireless internet

**Q7: May I live off campus?**

A7: Yes, you are not required to live on campus. There are many private housing options (apartments or houses) available in the community. Prices range from $450 - $800 for one bedroom apartments, $650 - $1,200 for two bedroom apartments, and $800 - $2,000/month for houses. More off-campus housing information is located at https://offcampushousing.msstate.edu/.

**Q8: Why do I need to provide my undergraduate transcript and three reference letters?**

A8: They are used to evaluate your potential to be successful in your future study in the chemistry graduate program. As such, your reference letter should address your academic background in chemistry and your potential as a graduate student.

**Q9: Once I am admitted into the ELI program, when may I apply for graduate school?**

A9: Anytime.  You are welcome to leave the program early if you receive an earlier admission to a graduate program at MSU or another university.  However, you can only get an ELI certificate after you complete the one-year program.  In terms of the English requirement, this ELI certificate will certify your language requirement for admission into MSU as a Chemistry graduate student and will give you the language skills needed to pass the MSU Graduate School’s workshop to meet the requirements to become a Chemistry teaching assistant.

**Q10: What assistance will I receive during the graduate school application process?**

A10: This program is run jointly under both ELI and the Department of Chemistry at MSU. Once the ELI program is successfully completed, the MSU chemistry faculty will help recommend those students for their own graduate programs, other chemistry-related programs at MSU, and graduate school at other English speaking universities.  MSU will organize a graduate recruiting fair, so the ELI students have the opportunity to meet the graduate student coordinators from other universities.

**Q11: What fees are required for the program?**

In addition to tuition and fees, housing, food, and personal expenses, students are required to purchase their own textbooks for all courses. The university also requires insurance, and students will have initial medical fees for tuberculosis screening and needed vaccinations.