



# EXPERT AUPAIR



## Becoming a Host Family

“ I think the girls have benefitted from learning a **second language** and from having an **extended family**.

We hear regularly from our former au pairs, and **having a group of women who love our girls so much is pretty amazing.**

I think the language and the extended family are **gifts for a lifetime.** ”

- Host Family in Miami, FL

# What is an au pair?

As a host family, you are offered a unique opportunity for you to experience firsthand the richness and diversity of a culture different from your own. This is also an opportunity to share American values and culture with someone. Through this program, you will join thousands of American families who serve as citizen ambassadors of the United States.

The au pair program is primarily an exchange opportunity with the goal of increasing mutual understanding between foreign nationals and Americans. The way you interact with your au pair will have a significant impact on the way he or she understands this country and Americans. Your au pair will likely have much to learn about American customs and culture, and may begin the exchange with only basic English language skills. The most successful host families expend the time, energy and initiative necessary to help their au pair adjust to American life and ensure their au pair feels safe, stays healthy, and engages in educational and cultural activities.

The term “au pair” means “on par”, and this reflects the ideals of the program. The best way to have the most valuable cultural experience is to treat your au pair as a member of your family.

## How does it work?

### **Where does my au pair live?**

As a host family, you will be required to provide your au pair with a private bedroom in your home.

### **How much do I pay my au pair?**

Au pairs must be paid at least \$195.75 per week. You may pay your au pair more than this amount but under no circumstance can your au pair receive a stipend of less than \$195.75 per week. The Department of State calculates these minimum stipends after accounting for costs associated with weekly room and board.

### **What will my au pair's schedule look like each week?**

One of the many benefits of hosting an au pair is that you will set her schedule each week based on your family's needs. However, au pairs are limited to working no more than 45 hours per week or 10 hours per day. Another important thing to note is that your au pair receive at least 36 consecutive hours off each week, and one full weekend off each month. You must also provide your au pair with at least two weeks of paid vacation during their program year.

### **How long will my au pair be with my family?**

Your au pair will in your home for the duration of her year-long program, with the option to extend for an additional year. This means, that your au pair's immigration status will allow her to work for and provide childcare services only to you.

### **What if it doesn't work out?**

If you no longer wish to continue with your au pair, you can end your placement at any time by providing two weeks written notice. Through the transition, both your Local Representative and your Regional Representative will provide you with guidance and support in either searching for a replacement au pair, or processing a refund based on the amount of time remaining in your placement.



She is kind and patient. Knowing her helps our boys understand that **there is a big world out there** and, despite our differences, **we all share many things.**

- Host Family in Denver, CO

Having our au pair at home as part of our family has been a great experience.

We implemented "**Thai Friday**" in our house. During Thai Friday we eat Thai food and we try to learn Thai.

**Both of our kids have learned the Thai alphabet.**

- Host Family in Bismarck, ND

We love hosting an au pair— the children get **exposed to a new culture** and **enjoy sharing our customs and traditions.**

- Host Family in Arlington, VA

## What are some of the benefits of hosting an au pair?

### Tailored Childcare:

We listen to what you need in a childcare provider and work hard to accommodate those needs and match you with the best candidate for your family. Your au pair will be able to fully focus on your children and offer them individualized attention, something that can be hard to come by in a general daycare setting.

### International Perspective:

Hosting an au pair gives your children an opportunity to learn a new language and exposes them first-hand to a different culture.

### Flexibility:

The schedule of an au pair is generally more flexible than other childcare services, making it easy to create a schedule that caters to your family's unique needs. Au pairs can also help with childcare related duties, for example, she can teach your children a new language, prepare home-cooked meals for your children, and drive them to school and other activities and appointments.

It has helped us find **child care we can trust** and we've gotten to meet and get to know someone from another country and **learn about their lives and cultures.**

We were very lucky to have matched with such an **amazing person.**

- Host Family in Hoboken, NJ

My au pair is a **part of my family.**

She has introduced my children to the language and food of her home country.

**I can tell she loves my children.**

- Host Family in Sebring, FL

We are very happy with our au pair and so grateful for this program.

**Our baby is so very loved and we have a wonderful companion in our home.**

- Host Family in Pittsburgh, PA



# Am I eligible to be a host family?

Families who are hoping to host au pairs must go through an application procedure. Each of the following are required to participate in the au pair program as a host family:

**Location:** To participate in the au pair program, we must have a Local Representative within an hour's drive of your home.

**Living Space:** Au pairs are required a private bedroom in your home, as well as unrestricted access to bathroom facilities (which may be shared). During your in-home initial interview, your Local Representative will view your au pair's living space to ensure your au pair will have the proper accommodations during her time with your family.

**Financial Check:** We need you to demonstrate that you earn at least \$60,000 per year, or that you have at least \$50,000 in liquid assets.

**Citizenship:** Host parents must be US Citizens or Legal Permanent Residents.

**Background & Reference Check:** We also collect references and a background check for each adult residing in your home, and ask you to sign our *Family Service Agreement*, in which you commit to obey State and Federal laws, and Expert AuPair's program rules.

## What are the costs?

Our pricing is simple, and we are committed to a policy of no hidden fees. With Expert AuPair, you will never pay an application or registration fee.

|   |                |  |
|---|----------------|--|
| <b>Program Fee</b>                      | \$9,000*       | Due upon your au pair's successful visa interview.   |
| <b>Hawaii and Puerto Rico Surcharge</b> | \$300          | For host family's living in Alaska, Hawaii, and US Virgin Island Surcharge. Due upon your au pair's successful visa interview. |
| <b>Weekly Stipend</b>                   | \$195.75**     | Paid directly to your au pair.   |
| <b>Educational Stipend</b>              | Up to \$500*** | Paid directly to accredited post-secondary school or reimbursed to your au pair.   |

\*Due to an increase in visa denials, families hoping to host an au pair from Thailand or the Philippines are required to provide a non-refundable deposit of 10% of their agency fees upon matching. Payment of the remaining agency fee is due upon visa approval.

\*\*\$195.75 is a minimum weekly stipend. You may pay your au pair more than this amount but under no circumstance can your au pair receive a stipend of less than \$195.75 per week. The Department of State calculates these minimum stipends after accounting for costs associated with weekly room and board.

\*\*\*You are also responsible for covering reasonable transportation costs for your au pair's class attendance.



# What is included?

## The program fee includes:

- ✓ **Prescreening:** Prior to your au pair's arrival, Expert AuPair collects a number of documents, including:
  - ✓ References (2 Personal and 1 Employer)
  - ✓ A criminal background check
  - ✓ Psychometric Test
  - ✓ Proof of secondary school completion
  - ✓ Physician's report, including medical history and vaccination records
  - ✓ English interview, conducted over Skype with an Au Pair Advisor
  - ✓ In-person interview, conducted by one of our Overseas Representatives
  
- ✓ **Visa Forms:** We issue the forms your au pair needs to attend her visa interview and provide her with detailed instructions to guide her through the process of scheduling and attending her visa interview.
  
- ✓ **Airfare:** We take care of all the flight booking for your au pair! Her inbound international flight to your family will be booked after we have received your payment and your au pair has successfully completed her required training hours. After the successful completion of your au pair's program, we will work with her to arrange her return flight home.
  
- ✓ **Childcare Training:** Prior to her arrival, your au pair will be required to successfully complete over 32 hours of child safety and development training, including CPR. The required training is designed to help au pairs transition into the role of a full-time childcare provider in the United States.
  
- ✓ **Medical Insurance:** We provide insurance with no deductible for covered injury/illness throughout the duration of your au pair's program. Please ask for a copy of the insurance brochure for full details.
  
- ✓ **Support Network:** Throughout the year, you will be in contact with a Local Representative of Expert AuPair who lives within a one-hour drive of your home. The Local Representative will be there to support both you and your au pair, and act as your first point of contact if there is ever an issue. You will first meet your Local Representative before your au pair's arrival when she comes to perform the initial home visit to see the private room you plan to provide to your au pair! Within the first two weeks of your au pair's arrival, your Local Representative will also perform an in-home orientation with your family and au pair to help open up communication and ensure that everyone has the same understanding of the household rules and expectations. Your Local Representative will also check-in every month and help introduce your au pair to the area. If you or your au pair have any questions regarding the local area, classes, or issues specific to your state, your Local Representative is the best person to call.

# Why Expert AuPair?

**Efficiency.** The matching process is important, and every family will take their own time to find the right au pair. We don't want to hurry you while you match, but once you make your decision we send your au pair's visa forms by DHL as soon as possible to expedite the process.

**Personal touch.** We know you by name when you call, and we are committed to providing you with personalized service throughout your experience. Our matching specialist will work one on one with you to go over your needs and expectations, helping you to find the best au pair for your family.

**Affordable Program Fee.** At Expert AuPair, we do our best to keep our prices low, while continuing to provide a personalized experience. Not only is our initial program fee much less than many other au pair agencies, but families save thousands of dollars with our extension pricing!

**A long history of successful au pair placement.** In May 2021, we celebrated our fifteenth anniversary and are looking forward to you joining our thousands of satisfied customers!

"We say this with almost 6 years of experience with a large au pair agency. Your **speed of execution and your customer focus has been astounding.**

Expert AuPair **feels like a small agency with big resources**, the best of both worlds."

- Host Family in Port Washington, NY

Thank you for the great job you have done in preparing all the paperwork and dealing with all of the issues along the way.

From the first point of contact till now **you guys have done a great job by being honest, prompt and effective.**

- Host Family in St. Paul, MN

I want to thank you for the **tremendous customer service** you've provided over the past several months...

I sincerely appreciate it!

- Host Family in Alexandria, VA

**She is essential to how the family functions.**

As a single parent, **I don't know how I would do it without her.**

She is amazing.

- Host Family in Melbourne, FL

You have consistently been **one of the best customer service representatives** I've ever dealt with, in any field.

- Host Family in Pensacola, FL

She has made our lives easier. **She is truly a member of the family** and [has] been so helpful.

**We couldn't do it without her!**

- Host Family in Chicago, IL

Complete our online application at  
**EXPERTAUPAIR.COM**  
to become a host family.

