



What is an Au Pair?

Becoming an Au pair is a fantastic way to experience the culture of a foreign country, develop your language skills, meet new friends – and of course, look after young children and become their friends too!

Becoming a host family to an Au pair is a cheaper and affordable clive-in childcare solution that allows you a high flexibility as well as personalised attention. It allows a closer carer/parent relationship than any other childcare solution. And of course, the foreign element of it offers you and your children a unique opening and perspective on the world.

Nature of the Programme: The au pair programme is a cultural exchange programme and not a contract or work. Au Pairs must be welcomed as a member of the family.

Au pair conditions: in order to be eligible for an Au pair position, the applicant must meet the following conditions:

- be aged between 17 and 27 – or up to 30 if the applicant does not need a visa (citizens of the European Economic Area EEA)
- must have finished high school
- be single – not married
- have no dependants
- not plan to stay in the UK for more than two years as an au pair
- can support herself/himself and live without getting any recourse to UK public funds
- intend to leave the UK upon completing the au pair placement.

Hours on duty: Au pairs can be on duty from 25 – 35 hours per week if they are citizen of the EEA. This is limited to 25 hours per week if the Au Pair is from Bulgaria or Romania. These hours can be spread out over 5 days per week

Pocket Money: Pocket money must be minimum £70 per week for 25 hours, regardless of whether the minimum hours are worked. For 30 hours the minimum is £80-100.

Babysitting: Two evenings babysitting per week are included as part of the programme. Additional pocket money should be paid for any additional evenings.

Leisure time: The au pair's schedule must provide sufficient time to attend language school, and the au pair shall receive two free days each week and should be offered one full weekend off per month.

Holiday entitlement: The au pair is entitled to a minimum of two weeks holiday per year; one week for every six months stay. Pocket money will be paid during these two weeks. If the au pair placement is for a shorter time, holiday is calculated pro-rata. The Au pair should not be forced to take holiday to coincide with the family holiday.

Light Housework: The responsibility of the au pair is to help with everyday housework, e.g making beds, the washing and ironing, vacuuming, clearing away and washing up after meals.

Childcare: The main duty of the Au pair is to baby sit, however an au pair is not permitted to have continuous sole charge of children **under the age of two**.

Room and board: The au pair receives full room and board from the family throughout the stay. The au pair must have her own private room with a window and not be required to share with children, and she should be given facilities to study.

Travelling Costs: The au pair is required to pay their own travelling cost to and from the UK, unless the family chooses to fund this.

Insurance: EU au pairs visiting the UK do not need additional health insurance as they are entitled to use the National Health Service. The au pair may also wish to take out additional travel insurance to cover loss of belongings, repatriation in case of accident, death etc.

Language School and Costs: Au pairs must be given enough time to attend language school if they want to study. There are many courses in the UK for EU members, which are more affordable due to government funding. These are usually ESOL classes. If an au pair chooses to go to a private school, they must bear their own cost, unless the family offers to fund this.

Written Offer: We will ensure that all au pairs receive a written offer from the family covering the duties and benefits. The family will also receive a signed agreement on the part of the Au pair.