



BECOME AN **AU PAIR** IN THE **UNITED STATES**

OVERVIEW

Becoming an Au Pair in the United States is an exciting opportunity to live with an American host family, experience American Culture and earn a minimum weekly stipend of \$195.75.

What is an Au Pair?

An Au Pair is a young individual, usually a young woman, who participates in a **cultural exchange program** where she lives with a family, in a foreign country, for a period of time and takes care of their children while learning their culture and teaching them hers. The word 'Au Pair' is a French term that translates to "on par" or "equal."

What makes a Typical Au Pair?

A typical Au Pair is a young individual who enjoys working with children and has a genuine interest in **Cultural Exchange**. While the program attracts people from various cultural and socio-economic backgrounds they share a common goal to immerse themselves in a new culture while becoming part of a **host family**.

During the interview and admission process, we look for caring responsible and mature candidates who demonstrate a strong desire to care for children. Ideal Au Pairs are often:

- ✓ Passionate about children and nurturing young minds.
- ✓ Diverse in background, bringing fresh perspectives to their host families.
- ✓ Often in a Gap Year, between educational pursuits or looking to gain work experience before starting a professional career.



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REQUIREMENTS

To participate in the program, there are special Au Pair requirements that you must meet. Below we have outlined the minimum requirements to become an Au Pair and Additional Skills and Qualifications of an Ideal Au Pair.

Minimum Requirements

1. **Age:** You must be between **18 and 26 years** old at the time of application.
2. **English Proficiency:** A good command of conversational English is required to communicate effectively with the host family and children.
3. **Health:** Applicants must be in good physical health to meet the demands of childcare and cultural exchange.
4. **Education:** You must be a high school graduate or equivalent.
5. **Childcare Experience:** A minimum of **200 hours** of documented childcare experience is required to ensure you have the necessary skills to care for children.
6. **Background Check:** All applicants must pass a detailed background investigation to ensure safety for both the Au Pair and the children they care for.
7. **Screening Process:** You must successfully complete a comprehensive screening process that evaluates your character, experience and suitability for the program.
8. **Driver's License:** Many candidates possess a valid driver's license with some also holding an **International Driver's Permit**.

Additional Skills and Qualifications

While the minimum requirements are essential, there are other skills and qualifications that make an Au Pair stand out. These include:

- ✓ **Previous Work or Volunteer Experience:** In addition to childcare, candidates may have experience in tutoring volunteering or working with children in other capacities.
- ✓ **Cultural Awareness:** A deep interest in experiencing and sharing their Culture with an American Family while learning about American life.

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COSTS

Although being an Au Pair comes with benefits, there are also some minimal fees that are paid to facilitate the commencement of the whole program from application, interview, matching with host families, processing Visa application documents to Visa Interview. Below is an outline of the internal fees and external fees as to be paid for the program.

Internal Fees

- ❖ E3 000 – Recruitment and vetting fee
- ❖ E4 500 – Due once Profile is approved to start matching with U.S families.
- ❖ E3 000 – Due once you are matched with a U.S host family.
- ❖ E4 500 – Placement fee. Payable before scheduling your Visa appointment and before flight booking.
- ❖ E3 000 – Visa processing fee

External Fees

- ❖ \$35 – SEVIS Fee – Payable online to the department of State.
- ❖ E3 600 – Visa Interview Fee – Payable to the U.S Embassy when you go for a Visa Interview.

Other Visa Interview Requirements

To travel to the United States a valid U.S Visa is required. Below are some documents that will be required by the U.S Embassy during your Visa Interview:

- ✓ International Passport
- ✓ 2 U.S Visa Photos
- ✓ DS 2019 – Certificate of Eligibility
- ✓ Confirmation Page for DS160 – Online interview
- ✓ Confirmation Page for Visa Interview Appointment
- ✓ Proof of SEVIS Fee Payment
- ✓ Au Pair and Host Family Agreement



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BENEFITS

Becoming an Au Pair in the United States provide unique benefits such as:

- ✓ **Cultural Exchange:** Immerse yourself in a new culture while sharing your own.
- ✓ **Travel Opportunities:** Explore the United States during your time off.
- ✓ **Childcare Experience:** Gain valuable hands on experience in childcare that can benefit your personal and professional growth
- ✓ **Roam and Board:** Live with a host family receiving accommodation and meals while earning a **stipend**.



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