



Phoenix Au-Pairs

Au Pair in China

Au pairing in China in collaboration with Au Pair Shanghai

If you are the type of person who loves adventure, then China is the best place for that with their 5000 years of history.

About China

Chinese civilization dates back thousands of years ago. And while their turbulent modern history coloured and even destroyed some cultural perspectives, there is still much to see and learn.



At the heart of Chinese civilization is its rich heritage of novels, short stories, poetry, drama and more recently, film. They reflect the values, the struggles, the sensibilities, the joys and the sorrows of this great people and often offer insights even into the most intimate feelings of people in the past. These works help you understand what is behind the language, what makes it powerful and how it actually functions in Chinese society. To be at ease and effective in a Chinese environment learning the language is half the battle, but knowing about the culture behind the language is the other. China is a country with a rich culture, dramatic history and is fast becoming a top destination choice. Until the 1980s, China was virtually closed for the outside world but now it is one of the world leaders in economy and business, putting itself under the spotlight by hosting world-known events such as the Olympic Games and 2010 World Expo. After joining the World Trade Organization, China has witnessed a rapid and great economic growth, while the most Chinese families had only one child facing intense social competition. In this case mastering a foreign language became essential, which met the requirements of the Au Pair project. China is the fourth biggest country and it is divided in 34 such divisions, classified as 22 provinces, 4 municipalities, 5 autonomous regions, 2 Special Administrative Regions, and the claimed Taiwan Province. Most Au Pairs are placed in Shanghai, in Pekin, in Hangzhou, in Ningbo but we do place Au Pairs throughout the whole country. Be aware that China is big and that getting from the south to the north will take 5 hours by plane. Our Chinese partner's office is placed in Shanghai which is in the east of China.

Chinese Host Families

The most common unit is a host family with a father, a mother and 1 child. Of course there are some exceptions for example 2 children. A lot of families do have pet animals. Most common is a cat or a dog. Host families normally live in bigger houses. We want you and the Au Pairs to not to have over expectations. Some families are very wealthy, others aren't but that doesn't make them a less good host family. In most cases, host fathers work full time, and host mothers are at home. But this differs. Most families have a cleaning lady for about 4 days a week. Chinese families attach much value to family life; Chinese parents treat their children with respect and expect that they respect others at a very early age. Chinese children learn to "act little prince" because they are only child. Sometimes this can come across as being a bit rude, but the Au Pairs needs to understand this is the Chinese culture; they don't feel the need to lie when something goes wrong.



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E-mail: lindatobin@phoenixaupairs.com

Telephone: 0044 1975 651 750

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Au pair programme in China

Requirements

The au pair should at least speak reasonably good English and must be able to cycle. Au Pairs that smoke or recently quit smoking will have a smaller chance of getting placed.

Age

An au pair is not younger than 18 and not older than 31 years of age. The Au Pair should be maximum 30 years.

Working hours

Maximum of 30 hours per week spread out over a maximum of five (5) days during which the au pair is not allowed to work more than a maximum of eight (8) hrs per day. Babysitting activities can be undertaken over a maximum period of three (3) evenings per week. It's absolutely not allowed for a family to ask the Au Pair to work more than 30 hours, even if they pay extra. Working hours should be agreed between Host family and Au Pair before arrival in China.

Duration of stay

An au pair stays with a family for a maximum of 12 consecutive months and minimum 3 consecutive months. Leisure time: 2 days per week and a minimum of one full weekend once per month.

Paid Holiday

An au pair is entitled to two (2) weeks of paid vacation per 12 months, during which time the au pair's pocket money will be paid in full. If the au pair placement is for a shorter period of time, vacation is awarded accordingly. It's the Au Pairs and host family's responsibility to agree on the holidays together, preferable at the beginning of the Au Pair year.

Light household chores * Washing dishes * Loading and unloading the dishwasher * Preparing simple meals * Keeping the kitchen in order and general tidying up * Shopping for light groceries * Loading laundry into the washing machine * Packing away laundry/clothes * Ironing * Tidying and cleaning of children's room(s) * Tidying and cleaning of own room(s) * Tidying and cleaning in general * Vacuuming * Dusting
* Keeping floors clean * Taking out garbage but only on the ground floor * Walking and feeding pets * Watering plants and taking care of plants/flowers * Making and changing beds
Tasks which may not be part of expected light household chores: * all and any tasks for which the au pair is solely responsible within the host family * all tasks with regard to gardening and the garden * washing of windows (inside and outside) * scrubbing * mopping/scrubbing any area large than 30 m2 * washing/cleaning a car or automobile * cleaning of bathroom facilities unless such facilities are to be used solely by the au pair

Room and Board:

All costs during the duration of the au pair's stay with regard to food and



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drinks are to be bought completely by the host family. The au pair needs to be registered at the same address as the host family while at the same time actually staying and living there. In other words, the au pair lives with the family at one and the same address, thus becoming part of the family as is the spirit of the au pair program. At this address, the au pair must have a room with a window containing a minimum of a bed, a desk and a chair. Bath/shower facilities must be offered if and when desired.

Other benefits for au pairs

Length of Stay	3months	6months	9months	12months
Insurance			All of insurance will be paid by our Chinese Partner	
Flight tickets support	3000CNY	6000CNY	6000CNY	7000CNY
Mandarin classes			No less than 4 hours per week	
Visa service			All of visa fees will be covered by Our Chinese Partner	
Pocket money			1000CNY at least per month	
Au Pair Certificate			Our Chinese Partner awards certificate to every au pair who finish the whole period of time in China	

Remark:

- 1, Insurance will be paid by our Chinese Partner when the au pair arrives to China in first day.
- 2, Will pay 500CNY's flight tickets support to au pair every au pairing months, the resting part will be paid after au pair's whole period of time in China.
- 3, Will send the mandarin book before lessons starting, the mandarin tuition will be paid by our Chinese Partner.

*All teachers will be arranged from our Chinese Partner, remember not university lessons.



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4, Will reimburse visa cost after finish au pair's whole period of time in China,

5, Pocket money will be paid for 1000CNY from the host family every month.

Documents required

Application form

Dear Host family letter (should at least contain about 750 words)

Copy of all pages of your passport (all page numbers should be clearly readable)

Photo of yourself (please make sure it's the size of a passport picture)

Copy of your High School diploma

Photo album

1 - Character reference, signed by the referent (no family!)

2 - Child Care references, signed by the referent (no family!)

Medical report, to be completed by the applicant Medical report, to be completed by a doctor (STAMP+SIGNATURE)

Extra documents

The au pair must have a birth certificate (translated into English by an official translator if applicable) legalized, which she will need to take with her in China.

Optional but VERY recommended

A short video clip of the au pair where introduce herself. It doesn't have to take long, just enough to get a good first impression about the au pair. If the au pair made a little video clip, she can put it on YouTube and send the link by email to us so host families can watch it.

Placement process

First step to your amazing experience in China is your application as an au pair. We will send you the application form to complete and send back to us along with the documents listed above. After we receive your application and the required documents, we will arrange an interview, face-to-face if possible, or by skype to meet you. After the interview, we will send your complete file to our Chinese partner, who will match it with their available families. We will arrange skype interviews with the families you chose. After the match has been made, our Chinese partner will send the necessary documents for the visa process to the host family. The host family will start to gather all documents and if all is complete, they will send it to our Chinese partner. When we receive the confirmation that the visa has been granted, we will inform you. You will make an appointment at the embassy as soon as possible and you will go and pick up her visa. Normally this process will take between 2 and 4 weeks.

Flights

As soon as you have your visa, you can start looking for flights. Of course, you should contact the host family to determine possible dates. When booking the flight, please make sure that the ticket is valid for 365 days and can be changed at all time. Also, you have to make sure that there is no transit flight in a country for which you would need a VISA.



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Arriving in China

Welcoming package When you arrive in China, our Chinese partner will give you a welcoming package. This package contains: - List of all Au Pairs in China - Information about your Chinese classes - Public transport card - Shanghai map - SIM card

Contact moments About 1 week after the arrival. We will email you to see how you are. Also, our Chinese partner will contact you and the host family to see how the first week went and if all is in

order. 2 Months after the welcoming phone call, our Chinese partner will call or email you and host family again to see if all is still okay and if nothing has changed for example with the

working hours 6 months after arrival our Chinese partner will call or email you and Family again, to check if all is in order. About 2 months before your planned departure our Chinese partner will call you and the host family again to talk about the past year and wish you a good flight back home. Throughout your placement, we will be available to discuss any issues/concerns you might have. We will support you in any way we can, so that you have a nice experience in China.

Problems and replacement In case of problems we are always here for the Au Pair and the Host families. We consider both parties to be just as important and try to listen objectively to both and give them advice. We will do anything that is in our power to help both parties!

Breaking the rules It is the responsibility of the Au Pair to know the rules outlined here. We expect Au Pairs to cooperate with these rules, and we encourage them to ask us, the host family or our Chinese partner to explain them if they do not understand something. Neglecting to comply with all of the program rules and regulations can result in being expelled from the program.

When issues arise In case a host family or the Au Pair have some problems, we and our Chinese partner will always talk to both parties and advise them in the best possible way. If the problem doesn't get solved and the family or/and the Au Pair decide to not continue with each other, we will try to replace the Au Pair and find a new Au Pair for the host family.

The process of replacement In case a replacement is needed, the au pair will have a replacement interview with our Chinese partner, in their office, or by skype. During the replacement interview the Au Pair is asked some questions to find out what kind of family she is looking for and if she is suitable to be replaced. In most cases, the Au Pair will be placed in a new family. Please note that Au Pairs and families have a two weeks' notice. This means that from the moment the Au Pair or Host family has agreed to stop the cooperation, the Au Pair can stay for maximum 2 weeks with the host family.

China is getting more and more popular as an au pair destination. The principle of being an Au pair in China is quite simple: living with a host family, taking care of children, teaching them to speak English, in exchange the Au Pair will get free accommodation, free meals, pocket money every month and free Chinese courses at least twice per week. There is no better way to explore Chinese culture than being an Au pair.



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A typical day might include:

- Take the child to school
- Do some light housework
- Go to Mandarin classes
- Pick up the child from school
- Help the child with the homework
- Play games and practice English with the child

Curious and want to know more? See below some interesting facts about cultural differences in China

These differences do not make either culture better or worse than the other one. It just shows their differences which has been created through centuries of history and development. China can trace their traditions and customs for thousands of years. By being aware of some of the differences you lessen the impact of culture shock and you make your life considerably easier. Here is a list of some of the more overt cultural differences of Western culture in relation to Chinese culture:

Food Etiquette Food etiquette in China is different from other culture. Watch what they do. You will be amazed. Slurping and reaching for food is totally acceptable as it removing food from one's mouth and putting it on the table. Note that playing with chopsticks and making faces at the food (no matter how disgusted you might be) is not acceptable. Showing this emotion is considered a loss of face. Also note that going "Dutch" is seen as unfriendly. If you offer to pay for everyone's meal it will develop your relationship with him or her or them, even though they may not let you actually pay.

Crowds We might as well address the one thing you HAVE to get used to. People. And lots of them. If you choose to travel or go out you will be exposed to crowds. On public holidays the masses of people will become readily apparent as you shop with 1.5 billion Chinese. Don't expect people to wait in line/queues. There is very little sense of personal space.

Visiting a Person's House If invited to a Chinese person's house, which will happen, always take a gift of fruit or flowers. A pre-made basket of fruit costs about 30RMB. A bag of oranges or a bunch of flowers only costs a couple of Chinese RMB. Red flowers are good to take. White flowers are only used at funerals. I always have a supply of Indian candy smoked salmon that I bring along with me as a "gift from home" which always goes over a treat. It's a lot more expensive than 30RMB. I buy online at www.salmonexpert.com Fish is also a good gift. Learn more about the food culture and symbolism in China in the Food in China section

Smoking Smoking is seen as a manly thing and very few think of it as a health threat or as offensive. Often people will smoke in restaurants with little or no regard for smoking or non-smoking sections. Chinese men constantly offer cigarettes and alcohol to other men. The type of cigarettes a person smokes establishes a class system. To decline an offer of a cigarette or alcohol say gently, "Wo bu hui. Xie xie."

Tipping Today, attitudes towards tipping are changing. Although the practice is not officially recognized, tips are now frequently offered to and accepted by travel guides, tour bus drivers,



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porters and waiters in top-class hotels and restaurants. However, tipping is still not expected in most restaurants and hotels. Consumer taxes are included in price tags on goods but big hotels and fine restaurants may include a service charge of 10% or more.

Physical Contact/Holding Hands in Public Chinese are not big on public displays of affection, you will rarely if ever see couples kissing or making out in public. Shake hands but refrain from hugging, kissing, winking, patting or making physical contact. As a "friend", you will find that men will hold hands with men and women will hold hands with women and walk on the street. This may be "weird" in the west, but it is a common, friendly practice for young people/adults in China. You may even have a friend of the same sex try to hold your hand at some point. It's a very weird feeling.

Eye Contact In Western countries one expects to maintain eye contact when we talk with people. This is a norm we consider basic and essential. This is not the case among the Chinese. On the contrary, because of the more authoritarian nature of the Chinese society, steady eye contact is viewed as inappropriate, especially when subordinates talk with their superiors. Chinese students are not brought up to maintain constant eye contact with their teachers. Eye contact is sometimes viewed as a gesture of challenge or defiance. When people get angry, they tend to maintain steady eye contact. Otherwise, they keep talking looking elsewhere or nonchalant. Also, try to avoid physical and eye contact with the opposite sex.

Bowing Bowing or nodding is the common greeting; however, you may be offered a handshake. Wait for the Chinese to offer their hand first.

Spitting Not one of the most beautiful elements of Chinese culture but definitely a predominant one. Many Westerners are put off by the "horking" and violent raising efforts of Chinese people. I was most surprised when someone behind me at a traffic light did this big hork like sound (I am only guessing you can imagine this - try it now - saw hawk but now pretend you are gurgling while you say it and clear your throat at the same time. That's what I mean by "hork". Well someone did this behind me and I turned to give him a stink eye and saw that it was one of the most beautiful girls I had ever seen in China... wow. Not impressed. Spitting and littering is normal yet frowned upon. Even in a restaurant spitting and littering occurs. It is important to ALWAYS consider where you sit or put your bag down and I highly advise you NOT to walk around barefoot.

Teeth Not sure where to start here. There is no fluoride in the water. There are few dentists. Teeth are ugly here. Imagine the UK a hundred years ago... teeth are like that. As a result, breath has a tendency to be rather putrid too. Deal with it. Good luck

Inviting People Home You are definitely welcome to invite Chinese people to your home. Expect that if you invite them that you will be required to supply everything, just the same as if you invite them to dinner in a restaurant. One thing to remember, it is best NOT to invite a Chinese person to your home country. Travel is not easy for Chinese people. If they want to go to your home country they will bring it up.



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Age Be prepared to be asked your age, or why you are not married or don't have any children. This is not considered prying but rather friendly and expressing interest in your life.

Chinese Hosts Offering Something Usually when a Chinese host offers a guest refreshments, if the guest declines, the host will ask again twice. Remember this if you entertain at your place. If someone declines they may really want something so you should really ask a couple more times. It makes it look like you are really concerned with their comfort... I know... Most guys don't have the patience for this sort of stuff. Speak your mind so we can move on to new topics faster... slow down everybody. Life doesn't have to move so fast. Consider this scenario and then watch or participate in a Chinese Tea Ceremony.

Animals/ "pets" in China Animals are not treated with kindness in China. Many of our teachers have adopted pets during their stay which is great and humane and all those good things but realize before you judge the Chinese that they have not yet established a "pet culture". Animals are just there. It's hard but try to overlook the unkindness.



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