



Phoenix Au-Pairs

Au pairs in the UK: Types of au pairs

Basic au pair

This is the most common type of au pair. There are very few requirements to apply for this position as you will be able to see below.

Requirements:

- You must be aged over 18 years old
- You only need a minimum childcare experience. Babysitting or any other informal type of childcare is accepted.
- You need to speak at least a basic level of English. There is no certificate needed, but you need to be able to have a Skype/phone interview with the family.
- Driver or non-driver - depending on the family requirements

Working hours and pocket money

A basic au pair usually works 25 hours, plus 2 evenings of babysitting per week and the minimum pocket money is £75 per week. Any extra hours worked must be paid over and above the usual weekly pocket money, at a minimum rate of £3 per hour.

You can attend language classes if you wish to do so. The host family will help you find courses near their location and they can help you with the application forms, but you are entirely responsible of the expenses of the courses. Also, you have to make sure that attending classes is possible without interfering with the family's timetable.

Au pair plus

Requirements:

- You must be aged over 18 years old, but candidates aged over 20 years old are preferred for these positions
- Some childcare experience is required, just as for basic au pairs
- Previous experience as au pair is welcomed, though not compulsory
- You need to speak at least a low intermediate level of English
- Driver or non-driver - depending on the family requirements

Working hours and pocket money

An au pair plus usually works 35 hours, plus 2 evenings of babysitting per week and the minimum pocket money is £95 per week. Any extra hours worked must be paid over and above the usual weekly pocket money, at a minimum rate of £3 per hour.

You can attend language classes if you wish to do so. The host family will help you find courses near their location and they can help you with the application forms, but you are entirely responsible with the expenses of the courses. Also, you have to make sure that attending classes is possible without interfering with the family's timetable.



Phoenix Au Pairs Agency

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Mother's help

Requirements:

- Candidates aged over 23 years old are usually preferred. You can still apply if you are younger, but you will need to have experience with children. As this position involves more responsibilities than a basic or plus au pair, the families usually prefer more mature girls. We also have positions for ladies over 35 years old
- Childcare experience, formal or informal is essential. Experience with children under the age of 2 years old (even new born babies sometimes) is required. Childcare references are a must.
- Previous experience in UK is highly welcomed, but not a must though
- You need to speak English at an intermediate level at least
- Driver or non-driver - depending on the family requirements

Working hours and pocket money

A mother's help usually works 40 hours, plus 2 evenings of babysitting per week and the minimum pocket money is £150 per week. For 45 hours per week, the minimum allowance is £165 and for 50 hours per week the minimum is £180. Any extra hours worked must be paid over and above the usual weekly pocket money, at a minimum rate of £4 per hour. As these positions involve more hours of work (and more payment), it is highly unlikely you will be able to attend language classes.

Mother's help Housekeeper

A mother's help housekeeper will only have housework duties and help with pets, if necessary. She would work 40 to 50 hours per week and their pocket money should be paid at a rate of £6/hour. The minimum working hours for them is 25 per week. She would have to have her own room and all meals, just like the other types of au pairs/mother's helps.



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