



Au Pair in China

Before You
apply





Dear future applicant,
This document will give you both an overview and a taste of the life-changing experience that is waiting for you as an Au Pair in China.

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT CHINA!

China is a wonderful and diverse country. Embarking on the amazing journey as an Au Pair in China will lead you to experience the modernity of the fourth largest country in the world as well as its deeply rooted history and fascinating traditions.



PLACEMENT DESTINATIONS

Modern cities like Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou are the main destinations of the program. They are full of interesting sites and offer endless opportunities for entertainment. Hangzhou is the first stop where Au Pairs start their journey. The beautiful view of the West Lake and its scenic sites are among many of the most impressive and warm ways China has to welcome you. Although you will be placed in one city, the opportunity to get away, explore new places and a different way of living is truly on offer.



FOOD

Real Chinese food is nothing like you believe you might be used to...and that's a good thing! Dishes are indeed delicious, and if you're adventurous enough you'll be able to explore a whole new world of different tastes and flavours. Chinese people are very welcoming and sharing food is one of the

ways of showing their hospitality. That's what you can expect to experience when living with a host family in China, together with the fantastic opportunity to enjoy their authentic cuisine. As a saying in China suggests: 'Don't ask, just eat!' You will not be disappointed!

And if you're asking yourself what the options are for vegetarians in China, fear not! Chinese cuisine has a wide variety of food and, although not numerous, there will also be vegetarian restaurants if you want to go for a safer option.



LANGUAGE

Mandarin Chinese, the official language of the People's Republic of China, is a tough one to learn. Everything, from pronunciation, to grammar, to writing is different from Western languages. Moreover, not a lot of people in China have a good level of English, your host family included. It will take some effort to start putting the first few words together, but there's nothing to worry about! The program does not ask for any Chinese skills prerequisites, instead it focuses on its educational component. It will guide you through learning with 24 hours of Mandarin classes delivered by experienced teachers and TESOL Mentors and cultural courses on a monthly basis.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Being an Au Pair in China will be a brand new experience for you! And it will definitely not be comparable to any other experience you might have had as an Au Pair in another country.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN AU PAIR IN CHINA?

Chinese Host Families are happy to welcome you as an Au Pair in their house and will make anything they can for you to feel at home.

Your role as an Au Pair in your Host Family will mainly be that of an **educator** and a **language partner** for the children (and sometimes for adult members of the family as well!).

At the same time you will enjoy the unique benefits of such a mutual exchange by bringing your own culture to their homes.



REQUIREMENTS FOR AU PAIRS

Whereas being an Au Pair in North America or a European country would require you to have a lot of experience in child and sometimes baby care, this is not the case in China.

First of all an excellent knowledge of the English language as you will be involved in English tutoring. Chinese families really attach a great importance to the teaching element as they believe English is an essential part of their children's education. The way you're expected to carry out such a teaching will mostly be based on an enthusiastic play-based environment.



Secondly, the figure of an Au Pair is also that of an educator. The host family welcomes an Au Pair as the older brother or sister who will be a positive example to their children. For instance, you could have the opportunity of playing instruments with the children, pass on your hobbies or perhaps sports habits. All this will require interactivity, flexibility and a great amount of consideration as you will have to be a good model for the children.

BENEFITS FOR AU PAIRS

The length of the programs can vary from 3 / 6 month and 9 / 12 months available via extensions. Your duties will usually go up to 30 hours a week for childcare and related. You will have plenty of opportunities to go out there and explore on your own during your off-work time.

To make your stay more comfortable, you will be offered free room and board, round way international air tickets & insurance pack.



1000 RMB = 59 

You will also benefit from a pocket money of 1000 RMB a month plus completion bonus for 6+ month programs of 2000 RMB.

To support you make the most out of your experience in China, there will be a 3-day arrival orientation which includes the city tour of Hangzhou and a Welcome Dinner and informative sessions such as *Live with a Chinese Family* and *Cultural Shock and TESOL*. You will also enjoy the chance to learn as much as you can and integrate with this new world through Mandarin classes, Chinese cultural courses and the opportunity to network with Local Coordinators!

SUPPORT YOU WILL RECEIVE BY LOCAL STAFF

Local staff will be ready to assist you and give you all the help you need to settle down in your new environment. To ensure au pairs' safety and well-being, the program implements a service system which consists of program service manager, local coordinator and numerous advisors (education advisor, TESOL advisor etc.) who are there to help you in different circumstances. You will also have the opportunity to see and talk to your Local Coordinator often, sometimes on a weekly basis. For any emergency, a 24/7 phone service is active.

ABOUT CHINESE HOST FAMILIES

Every family is different and has its own rules, rhythms and habits. But generally, an Au Pair will be treated as a member of that family and will also be expected to act as one.

TRADITIONAL CHINESE FAMILY STRUCTURE AND HIERARCHY

One aspects of life in China which is rooted in tradition is family structure and hierarchy. Compared to foreign cultures, Chinese families place a lot of importance on everybody's role in the family, and each member is expected to act accordingly. Generally, in Chinese families, many people are involved in a child's upbringing for example grandparents, relatives, tutors, nannies. Grandparents particularly hold an important role in the family hierarchy and have a lot to say about family schedules and household management. Therefore as an Au Pair, you may find yourself dealing with these figures on a daily basis.



ONE CHILD POLICY



Host families usually have 1.6 kids on average. So, in general, you will find yourself caring for two children as, in China, couples are not allowed to have more than two. This is because of the "one-child policy" which has been applied in China for more than 30 years and has had some effects not only on numbers, but also on families and society as a whole. In October 2015, the policy has been modified and now allows couples to have two children, but still a lot of efforts and importance are placed on every single child to succeed. This is where your role of an Au Pair will have a significant impact in that child's future prospects.

CHILD EDUCATION AND THE ROLE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Education plays a very important role in today's China. Academic excellence is stressed since a very young age, and a lot of families don't think twice before spending a lot of their extra money and time on their children's formal education. Your role as an Au Pair again will also be that of giving your host children a "competitive advantage" over others by advancing their English language skills and exposing them to a foreign culture. For this reason, your family will be very unlikely to strictly count your working hours and will generally consider you as being part of the family, not as an employee with a fixed work schedule.

FINAL NOTES

Being an Au Pair in China will definitely be one of the most precious and enriching experiences you'll ever have. All you need is approaching this program with an open mind and an enthusiastic attitude to adapt to other cultures. If you allow yourself the chance to explore, understand and really experience Chinese culture, you'll be able to make the most out of it.

We look forward to welcoming you aboard this amazing experience!

