



2009 International Childcare Program

Location	France Italy Spain Germany New Zealand Australia
Start Dates	Year-round, with more placements available in Spring and Fall. Summer and short-term placements (3 months) available for Italy and Spain.
Program Fees	US\$1250 for Western Europe, US\$1495 for Australia & New Zealand
What's Included	Guaranteed family placement Private room Full Board (3 meals per day) Weekly/Monthly Stipend Insurance Assistance Arrival Pick-Up and Transfer Networking and language lesson opportunities 24/7 Pre-departure and local support
What's not Included	International transportation Visa fees (if applicable) Language course fees
Benefits	Salary is roughly 75 Euro per week (this varies from family and destination). Room and board are included for all placements.
Accommodations	You will be provided a private room in your family's home. 3 meals a day are included.

Program Details & Highlights

The 'international au pair' is a common and widely accepted position throughout Europe and Oceania, and offers an unforgettable cultural immersion experience for anyone who loves working with children, is ready to intimately discover and explore a

- ◆ **CULTURAL EMBRACE** ◆ 7201 Bill Hughes Road ◆ Austin, Texas 78745 USA ◆
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foreign culture, and has a strong sense of independence, responsibility, and curiosity! Enroll in *Cultural Embrace's International Childcare Program* to be a part of this experience, and we will match you with a family according to your preferences, work with you to find the best visa opportunity to match your requested length of stay, and keep track of all the details to make sure your trip is successful and rewarding!

In a foreign country, each family will do everything they can to make you feel as part of their family, and so will our partners! Language lessons are available for you to work on your language acquisition, and are required for those with elementary or intermediate language levels. Families often pay a stipend toward your language schooling as well. In addition to the language courses, you will have opportunities to network with other au pairs! Our partners also offer monthly au pair meetings to give you a chance to meet and greet other au pairs in your area.

As an Au Pair, you will be responsible for the daily care of your host family's children, including assisting the children dressing, eating, cleaning up and transportation to and from school and extra-curricular activities. Placements are available from 2 months to 1 year, depending on destination, nationality, and family availability. Most placements require a 6 month minimum- short term placements (2-3) months are considered on a case by case basis. Contact your Programs Coordinator to discuss visa options and availability!

Program Highlights

International Childcare Offers:

- An opportunity to broaden your perspective and worldview
- An economical way to live and travel abroad
- An opportunity to participate in and learn local cultural activities (e.g.: sports, music, cooking)
- Memorable travel experiences with the chance to see exotic sites you have always dreamed about
- The ability to make lifelong friends from around the globe
- A valuable work experience that strengthens your resume, exhibiting your diligence, independence, and intercultural experiences
- A great way to develop and support your self-confidence and interpersonal skills
- A chance to learn or build on your French, Italian, German or Spanish language skills

Cultural Embrace Offers:

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- **Guaranteed Family Placement Prior to Departure**
Cultural Embrace guarantees a pre-arranged paid position in the with a pre-screened host family.
- **Compensation**
Weekly stipend and room and board included. Stipend varies from country to country. The average net income is 75 Euros/week (approximately US\$100/week). You will have two days of the week off and often times you will have much of the day to yourself while the children are in school.
- **Room & Board**
Your placement includes a private room, and typically a shared bathroom with your sponsored family. All meals are included with your local family.
- **Visa Assistance**
Cultural Embrace will assist you with attaining your visa. Most placements have a minimum of 6 months. Your Program Coordinator will help you find an appropriate visa, however we cannot guarantee visa approval. The fee to receive your visa is NOT included in your program fee.
- **Arrival Assistance**
Cultural Embrace will see to it that you are met at the closest airport, train or bus station by your host family and taken to your new home.
- **Language Lessons and Networking Opportunities:**
Cultural Embrace will set up language lessons (if needed) that match your skill level. Our local partners have frequent meeting for au pairs in each area to maximize your networking opportunities.
- **Cultural Embrace Kit**
Useful tips, advice, and information to prepare you for the amazing adventure of living and working abroad.
- **Full-time Representation**
Cultural Embrace provides English-speaking representation in the United States and your host local country prior to, during, and after your placement.

Program Requirements

- Age Requirements: varies according to destination, generally 18-30 years of age
- Childcare experience; references from previous childcare work required
- Open to foreign cultures and living abroad
- High school diploma and high level of responsibility
- Dedication to the full term of commitment
- Knowledge of destination's mother tongue, or willingness to learn

For **Au Pairs traveling to Australia or New Zealand** there are the following additional requirements: au pairs must be 19-30 years of age and have 2-3 years of experience working with children.

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Visa Requirements:

For Au Pairs traveling to Western Europe:

For US passport-holding citizens:

Visa options vary per country. Many countries have au pair visas or residence permits for au pair participants. Visa regulations require US citizens to enter on a tourist visa and complete their residence permit registration while in-country.

Cultural Embrace will help you prepare your documents for the visa, but cannot guarantee visa approval.

US citizens may opt to travel on a student visa for periods up to 6 months. This visa option requires the participant to meet the student visa requirements of the destination country, which are generally 20 hours of language lessons per week. You must enroll in language classes in your host country to qualify for the student visa. These classes cost roughly 170 Euro a month for 10 hour of study a week. Classes have to be taken for the entire duration of your stay to qualify for a student visa.

NOTE: If you will be participating in the Italy or Spain summer program you will enter under a tourist visa and will not have to take language classes or apply for a student visa.

For non-U.S. passport holding citizens: (up to 6 months)

If you are an EU citizen, a student visa is not necessary. All other nationalities: if you are able to secure a student visa or appropriate residence permit on your own, we will be able to find you a placement.

For Au Pairs traveling to Australia or New Zealand:

The **Working Holiday Visa** offers high school graduates and young adults between 18 and 30 years old the chance to obtain a work visa extremely easily via an online application and to work for up to 12 months.

In New Zealand, the countries entitled to this visa and longer than 3 month work placements are: Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Sweden, the UK and the USA. This is a once-per-lifetime visa option.

In Australia, there are 2 sub-categories of the visa:

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1. The WHV Subclass 417 is aimed for young people between 18 and 30 years who would like to undertake a working holiday for a maximum period of 12 months in Australia. It allows short-term employment (maximum 6 months with each employer) and is eligible for passport holders of the following countries: Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Taiwan and the UK. It is possible to apply for a 2nd visa.
2. The WHV Subclass 462 is aimed for tertiary educated people between 18 and 30 years who want to travel and work for up to 12 months in Australia. The arrangement is in place for passport holders from Chile, Malaysia, Thailand, Turkey and the USA. This is a once-per-lifetime visa option.

2009 Program Fees

Au Pair Placement in Western European countries	US\$1250
Au Pair Placement in Australia or New Zealand	US\$1495

** Non-EU citizens cannot work more than 3 months unless traveling on student visa or residence permit*
***Program fees do not include visa fees.*

****Prices subject to change according to the world currency exchange rate.*

*****Can\$, Aus\$, Br£, Euros€ can be accepted with an*

additional service charge for currency conversion

How to Apply

1. Obtain the **Work Abroad Application Forms & Procedures** documents in one of two ways:
 - (a) Download the forms from our website at www.culturalembrace.com
 - (b) Call **Cultural Embrace** at 1-512-469-9089 or 1-888-214-8570 to have the forms mailed to you within 7-10 days.
2. Read the instructions carefully and complete all forms.
3. Submit your completed application packet to:

CULTURAL EMBRACE
7201 Bill Hughes Road
Austin, TX 78745 USA

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Completed packets should include the following:

- Program Application
- Signed Work Agreement
- Copy of your passport (information page only)
- School transcripts and/or diplomas (official please)
- Resume/CV
- Motivation letter explaining why you want to be an international au pair
- Two letters of recommendation from prior childcare positions
- Two letters of recommendation for character references
- Doctor's record verifying that you are in excellent mental and physical health
- Police background security check
- Four 1 ½" x 2" passport size photos (please write your name on the back)
- One full length photo
- US\$200 non-refundable deposit (credited towards your program fee)

Upon receipt of your application, a *Cultural Embrace* coordinator will contact you for a 20-30 minute phone interview. Once we accept you in to our program, you will receive an invoice for the remainder of your program fee. In order for us to contact our local partners to start your placement process, we require at least 50% of your program fee.

There is no deadline for applications - first come, first serve. We recommend submitting your application and program fee at least 12-16 weeks prior to your desired start date in order for us to organize and arrange your work placement with our local partners.

**Cultural Embrace* requires an expedited application fee for those applying 12 weeks or less before the desired date of departure. Applications received 8-12 weeks prior to desired departure date will be charged US\$150. Applications received less than 8 weeks before the desired departure date will be charged US\$250.

Frequently Asked Questions

1) How do you select the local families?

Our local partners carefully screen and interview the families that we work with. Each family must meet specific standards for them to receive an au pair. This includes a clean, safe, and comfortable living condition for the au pair, as well as expectations for meals and local transportation.

2) *Where can I work?*

We currently have partners and placements in the following areas of Western Europe: *France, Italy, Spain, and Germany*. Placements are available throughout these countries. We will certainly take your preferred location into account, however, flexibility to destination and region is required. Please note that placements are made based on availability and the family's acceptance of your application.

3) *What are the living conditions like?*

You will be living with the family that you are working for. Most of the placements will include a private room with shared bathroom, common area, and kitchen. Please be considerate to follow their '*house rules*'. Please note that European homes may be smaller and more quaint than North American homes, and they are more energy efficient with the use of air-conditioners and heaters.

4) *How long will I work and can I take time off to travel?*

Your work schedule will be assigned by your family, but you will probably average 30 hours per week with 2 days off per week (but it may not be consistent days or weekends). Each family has its own schedule arrangement, based on the children's school and social schedule that you should be willing to accept. Most families grant a week of vacation time after 6 months of service, and often invite their au pair to accompany them on family vacations as well! Of course you are encouraged to travel, but please consult with your family to see if you can organize a schedule that will be effective for all parties involved.

5) *What type of visa assistance does **Cultural Embrace** provide?*

For most of our work programs, each country has a different process regarding visas, and **Cultural Embrace** will certainly assist you during the process. Please note, however, that any visa fees are the responsibility of the applicant. And, while we can assist you during the process, ultimately it is your responsibility to ensure that you have obtained the appropriate visa for your work experience.

Cultural Embrace has no control over the visa process and cannot guarantee that your visa application will be accepted. Please consult your CE Program Coordinator for details about your visa requirements.

6) *What are the language requirements?*

Most families prefer au pairs/nannies with at least some knowledge of the local language. For those who have an elementary or intermediate understanding of the language, your family will expect you to attend language courses. Families often offer an extra stipend for language lessons. If you wish to take language lessons before or during your time to work, **Cultural Embrace** can organize that too.

7) *Do I have to have experience?*

Previous experience with working with children is necessary, though types of experience can vary. Two letters of recommendation from previous childcare experience are necessary, as well as two character references from other sources (teachers, employers, friends, etc.)

8) *What do I wear abroad?*

Since you will be working at the family's home, it is quite casual, but we also recommend that you look respectful. More details will be provided to you in your **Cultural Embrace** pre-departure kit.

9) *How long will it take to make my placement?*

We ask applicants to apply at least 12-16 weeks in advanced of your desired start date. The placement may take less time than this, but we want to ensure that we have enough time to find a great placement for you! There are additional administrative fees if you apply less than 12 weeks in advanced, and we do not contact our local partners until we receive at least 50% of the program fee payment.

10) *When should I buy my plane ticket and does **Cultural Embrace** provide any resources to help with plane tickets?*

Plane tickets should not be purchased until after your placement has been confirmed. **Cultural Embrace** works with consolidators and discount travel agencies that can help find cheaper tickets than those that are available to the general public.

11) *What do I do if I have a problem or complaint within my work placement?*

You must speak to your host family to give them an opportunity to explain or investigate the situation. If the complaint still exists, then please contact your local representative in the host country, as well as **Cultural Embrace** (Austin office), and let us know so we can mediate on your behalf.

A Few Words. . .

At **Cultural Embrace**, we want to facilitate experiences that, first and foremost, help individuals become better acquainted with both themselves and the richly textured cultures of the world around them. We design all of our programs with this goal in mind, and our au pair offerings are no exception. While abroad, participants will have the opportunity to explore each region and state's vast reservoir of distinct, diverse, and exhilarating activities, so no matter where you end up, rest assured that adventure is always close at hand. If you would like to pre-arrange excursions (i.e.: sight-seeing or adventure sport trips) or cultural activities (i.e.: diving lessons, surf classes, etc) prior to

your departure, we may assist you by making recommendations and reservations. This will help alleviate the time and energy needed to make plans while you are abroad.

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at work@culturalembrace.com or you can call us at 1-512-469-9089/1-888-214-8570 (US toll-free).

Discover the Similarities. . .
Share the Differences. . .