



# APIA Advantage

*An Educational Partnership with UCLA*

**UCLA** Extension

**Au Pair**  
IN AMERICA



*APIA Advantage includes American Studies Online, an academic program offered by UCLA Extension, as well as a community involvement component developed and monitored by Au Pair in America.*

## AMERICAN STUDIES ONLINE

*American Studies Online* is a 19-week online course offered by UCLA Extension that is part self-paced, part instructor-led. The course is offered through a customized, media-rich computer-based classroom that participants will access to read lessons, write, share resources, network with one another and collaborate on special projects- all designed to further their understanding of U.S. culture. Topics include U.S. history, arts in the U.S., U.S. literature, career counseling, and optional English language exercises.

Participants who successfully complete the program receive 6 academic units and earn a certificate of completion from UCLA Extension. Participants also will have access to a UCLA Extension transcript if they would like to apply their coursework to a degree program at another college or university.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The community involvement component of *APIA Advantage* is comprised of Global Awareness, volunteering, and cultural and historical activities. Au pairs will relate these experiences to their academic coursework in *American Studies Online*. The community involvement requirements must be complete by the end of the 19-week online course.

### Global Awareness

Global Awareness is a program designed to bring multi-cultural understanding and appreciation to pre-school, elementary and middle school children. Global Awareness enables au pairs to visit children in different settings in their community to share their culture, customs and language. As part of *APIA Advantage*, a minimum of one Global Awareness presentation is required.

**Global**  
AWARENESS



### Volunteering

Volunteering is a great way for au pairs to connect with Americans in the communities where they live and gain valuable experience for the future. When choosing volunteer opportunities, au pairs should take into consideration what will fit with their schedule. Some may choose to participate in one long-term volunteer opportunity while others might choose various short-term opportunities.

Au pairs can volunteer at any location that is of interest to them. Some possibilities are soup kitchens, libraries, nursing homes, food banks, religious organizations, hospitals, fairs, recreation centers and museums.

### Historical and Cultural Activities

An essential part of gaining knowledge and appreciation for America is learning about its history and culture, making it an important component of *APIA Advantage*. Au pairs can visit historical sites in their local area or while traveling in the U.S. These might be museums, monuments, battlefields, national parks, etc.

Additionally, au pairs must take part in activities related to American culture. There are many great cultural activities for au pairs to experience either on their own, with friends or their host families. Examples include attending a baseball game, trying traditional American foods, learning an American style of dance and taking part in holiday traditions.

## HOW TO ENROLL:

Visit [www.uclaextension.edu/aupairs](http://www.uclaextension.edu/aupairs)

APIA Advantage: An Educational Partnership with UCLA  
is exclusive to Au Pair in America.

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