



Inland Empire / Pasadena, California Area Cluster

EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

- **All standard and Extraordinaire Au Pairs are required to take 6 credits (or the equivalent of 8 Continuing Education Units or approximately 75 to 80 hours in the classroom) over the course of their year.** The courses do not need to be academic, for example you could take dance or art classes. They DO have to be from an accredited institution.
- Au pairs who extend their visa are expected to take an additional 3 credits for a 6-month extension and 6 credits for a 9 or 12-month extension. Host families will pay up to \$250 toward education for a six month stay and \$500 for a 9- or 12-month extension on the standard and Extraordinaire programs. EduCare program families will pay \$500 toward education for the 6-month extension and \$1,000 for a 9- or 12-month extension.
- Classes must be taken at an accredited university, college or continuing education program sponsored by a college. Au Pairs can check to see if a school is accredited at the following website: <https://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Search.aspx>
- Online courses do not meet the educational requirement for au pairs. The only exception is the UCLA Au Pair course (www.uclaextension.edu/aupairs/)
- Host families reimburse the cost of tuition and related materials (books and supplies) up to \$500 per Au Pair. Au Pairs should discuss the classes of interest and the schedule with their Host Family prior to registering.
- Host families provide transportation including gasoline, parking, or public transportation costs (if applicable) to and from the place of instruction. The cost of transportation is in addition to the \$500 (or \$1,000) allocated to tuition and related fees.
- Schools vary in what courses they offer, but most offer a wide range of choices.
 - ESL is English as a Second Language, and it usually requires placement exams to determine your start level.
 - Most Au Pairs register for the NON-CREDIT, CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES. These do not require you to matriculate into a degree program. They are not credit classes, but hours. Continuing Education classes are less expensive, and designed for people who work full time and for people who enjoy learning new things and want to pursue a wide variety of interests and skills.

- Classes are typically arranged for Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer Quarters, however, Continuing Education classes usually start at various times throughout the year. Most au pairs take at least 4 classes per year to achieve the 80-hour requirement.
 - Some schools allow students to audit a class. This is to take the course for enjoyment and not a letter grade. The cost is significantly reduced, but the instructor must approve it beforehand. Not all schools or all instructors approve audits, so be sure to check ahead of time.
-
- Au Pairs are more likely to meet college age students at the colleges than at continuing education programs.
 - Please check with your counselor before registering. Each time you register you report the following information to your counselor:
 1. Name of the College
 2. Name of Course
 3. Date the Class begins and ends
 4. Number of hours in the classroom or number of credits
 - Once you have completed your class, you must provide documented proof, such as a Certificate of Completion, a Letter of Completion, or a College Transcript to your Community Counselor. The Community Counselor must receive all course documents by the 10th month of your program. A documented registration confirmation will suffice for courses still in progress in the 10th month.
 - Refer to the [Local Education Options Spreadsheet](#) when beginning your research to find courses.