



Extension Information

Au Pairs and Host Families will receive extension information directly from the Stamford Office around month 8 in the program.

Host Families:	Au Pairs:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extension program continues the positive impact of a cultural exchange for the Host Family in this global economy. • Extending with the same Au Pair provides greater consistency for the children. • The extension program is an opportunity for the family to benefit from the flexibility and convenience of legal continuous childcare. (Keeping an Au Pair on a student or tourist visa makes it illegal for her to work as an Au Pair.) • A Host Family who retains their current Au Pair is eligible for a reduced program fee (over 22% off this year's published program fee) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Au pairs gain more experience in the U.S. and a chance to continue to care for their Host Family children • Staying in the U.S. allows for more educational and travel opportunities, as well as continued opportunities to gain job skills through volunteering and internships • Au Pairs will continue to develop lifelong skills through Global Awareness presentations and cross-cultural communication • Au Pairs have the opportunity to get CPR certification through a Red Cross Scholarship • In making their decision, Au Pairs may benefit from making a list of the pros and cons of extending their program. In what ways will it affect your future?

The Extension Process

Between month 8 and 9, extension paperwork is sent to the Host Family directly from the Stamford Office. The Au Pair will receive information directly as well, about a week later. The paperwork will include a specific due date, based on the Au Pair's arrival date. All extensions are now processed online.

Au Pairs may extend their program for 6, 9, or 12 months. Alternate terms are not allowed as this is a regulation by the Department of State. The Department of State only allows a one-time extension, and once the visa application is filed it cannot be changed. To apply, an Au Pair must be in "good standing" in the program, however, she may extend with a family the Au Pair went to during a rematch process.

The Au Pair's extension must be requested with the Department of State not less than 30 days before the end of the initial program. If the Stamford Office does not receive completed documents, they cannot process the request. Once the Department of State deadline for requesting an extension has passed, there is nothing they can do to help.

Additional or replacement application forms should be requested from Lauren Koch, Compliance and Extension Program Coordinator, at (203) 399-5178, lkoch@aifs.com or extension@aifs.com.

Extension – Same (ES)

When the Host Family and the Au Pair choose to extend together, we refer to it as Extension – Same.

- To initiate an ES extension, the Host Family and the Au Pair will complete the Host Family's extension paperwork TOGETHER and return to the Stamford Office.
- The Community Counselor will confirm completion of the Au Pair's Education Requirement
- The Stamford Office will process the request and send the visa extension paperwork to the U.S, Department of State
- Once approved, the Au pair is sent a new DS-2019 showing her extended program dates along with a participation letter and supplemental information
- The Host Family is sent a confirmation letter indicating approval of their au pair's extension
- For ES extensions, the program fee is discounted. There is, however, a charge from the Department of State for the visa extension application.

Extension- New (EN)

It is referred to as Extension – New when the Host Family and the Au Pair choose to extend separately, meaning the Au Pair extends in the program yet goes to a different Host Family, and the Host Family continues but matches with a new Au Pair.

- If an Au Pair intends to extend with a new family, she must complete her Education Requirement early -by month 10 is preferable, by month 11 is required. This will allow the Au Pair as much time as possible to match with a new Host Family.
- Host Families seeking a new Au Pair should log into the Host Family Portal and renew their account. They should allow two months to interview, match, and receive their new Au Pair. If the new Au Pair is coming from a country with a higher rate of visa denials, such as Thailand or China, additional time may be required.
- The extending Au Pair completes her application and returns it to the Stamford Office. She will be required to pay for her Year 2 health insurance as well.
- The Host Family must complete a confidential reference form, and return it directly to the Stamford Office separately from the Au Pair's application.
- The Community Counselor will confirm completion of the Au Pair's Education Requirement.
- Au pair's application is processed and she goes into the pool of available Year 2 Au Pairs with a specific Year 2 start date. Her original profile is posted on the APIA website so that other Host Families may review it.
- Host Families seeking an Au Pair will contact the Au Pair much in the same way as the first time she matched. Au Pairs should respond to each contact promptly.
- EN Au Pairs must match by 5 weeks prior to their program end date, or they will not be able to extend. If the Au Pair does not match with a new family by the deadline, then AP must return home not more than 30 days after the end of her program.

- Once matched, the Au Pair receives email confirming the match and requesting travel details to the new family. Travel to the new family occurs on the first day of her extension term.
- Year 2 start dates are not negotiable
- Once her visa extension is approved, the Au pair is sent new DS-2019 showing the extended program dates along with a participation letter and supplemental information
- APIA arranges for the travel from the initial Host Family to the new Host Family
- For EN extensions, the program fee is the regular published current year program fee

Visas

A non-refundable Extension Filing Fee is paid by Host Families extending with their current Au Pair. This is not an application fee; APIA turns around and pays directly to DOS to request the Au Pair's extension.

Any request received less than 30 days before the end of the Au Pair's first year will be denied by the Department of State

In most cases, the visa in the Au Pair's passport will be expired during the extension term, but this does not affect ability to remain in the U.S. as an Au Pair. Extension (Year 2) Au Pairs may travel outside the United States for as long as the visa in her passport is valid.

The 30-day Travel Month is allowed at the end of the Au Pair's stay because of a 30-day grace period granted by Homeland Security/USCIS.

During year 2:

- Au Pairs may travel freely within the U.S., including U.S. territories such as Puerto Rico.
- Au Pairs may travel to Canada, Mexico and parts of the Caribbean even with an expired visa through a provision called Automatic Revalidation, but they must have both original and extension DS-2019 and Passport with I-94 record (they should make a copy)
- Any travel outside of the U.S. will require a Travel Validation Signature (obtainable from Fiorella Ciralli, Program Compliance Manager, (203) 399-5087 fciralli@aifs.com). It takes one to two weeks to process and receive this document, through there is also an expedited process available for a small shipping fee.
- An Au Pair may require a visitor's visa to enter the country they intend to travel to (even in the Caribbean, Mexico, Canada)
- Travel plans to other countries may require that the Au Pair apply for a new J-1 visa to re-enter the U.S.

Au Pairs are **not required** to exit and re-enter the U.S. to be approved for an extension of their program. For Au Pairs from countries of high visa denial rates (Thailand, China, Peru) re-applying for a new year 2 visa is not recommended.

If the Au Pair chooses to renew her visa (rather than extend it), she must make an appointment with a U.S. Embassy outside of the U.S. The process is the same as when she first applied for the J-1 visa. She may not remain in the U.S. for longer than two years total, however.