



### **On equal terms**

The term 'au pair' means 'on equal terms'. The idea of an au pair stay is for young people between the ages of 17 and 29 to stay with a host family with children under 18 'on equal terms' with the other members of the family.

The purpose of the stay is to give young people the chance to improve language and/or professional skills as well as broaden their cultural horizon by becoming more acquainted with Denmark.

As a member of the host family, an au pair is entitled to food as well as lodging, in the form of his/her own room in the family's home.

In order to be granted an au pair residence permit, the applicant must already have the necessary linguistic and cultural foundation required to receive the full benefit of an au pair stay in the country. This means that the applicant must have a working knowledge of either Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, English or

German. Furthermore, the au pair must have completed the equivalent of nine years of schooling.

As a member of the family, the au pair contributes to the household by carrying out daily chores from 18 to 30 hours a week. The au pair receives a minimum monthly allowance of DKK 2,500 and must be granted at least one day off every week.

### **Not a work permit**

An au pair is *not* an inexpensive maid. The participation of the au pair in the family household is not the type of work which requires a work permit. As a result, an au pair is solely granted a residence permit.

This means that the au pair may not carry out chores for more than 30 hours a week in the home of the host family, even if the family offers the au pair a higher allowance. Likewise, the au pair may not carry out paid or unpaid work outside of the host family's home, e.g. in the home of neighbours or friends, or in a business belonging to the host family. Such work is against the law – not just for the au pair, but also for the party that has ordered the work.

Illegal work is punishable by fine or imprisonment. Au pairs engaging in illegal work risk having their residence permits revoked. The host family can be given a 2-, 5 or 10-year penalty period, during which time they cannot be approved to host an au pair. If you have knowledge of a situation where an au pair is working illegally, or where the rules are otherwise disregarded, you should inform

the Danish Immigration Service or report it to the police.

### **Extension of residence permit**

Au pairs will be granted residence permits valid for the term of their contracts with the host family, with 18 months being the maximum period. In very special cases, it is possible to extend it up to 24 months in total.



The application for extension must be submitted no sooner than two months before and no later than one month before the residence permit expires. If the application is submitted within this period of time, the applicant may continue his/her stay as an au pair while the Danish Immigration Service processes the application, providing that the au pair stays with the same host family, under the same terms and conditions.

### **New host family**

If at any time, an au pair wishes to change host family, the au pair must apply for a new

residence permit. The applicant may not take up chores with the new host family before the new residence permit has been granted. However, the au pair may move in with the new family whilst the application is being processed.



### **Where to apply**

As a general rule, applicants from non-EU countries as well as applicants from the new EU countries (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) must submit their application to the Danish diplomatic mission (embassy or consulate general) in their country of origin. The Danish diplomatic mission will then forward the application to the Immigration Service. In some cases, however, it is possible to submit an application

in Denmark, either to the Immigration Service or the local police.

Applicants from the other EU countries must apply at the Regional State Administration (Statsforvaltning). Applicants from the Nordic countries do not need a residence permit to be an au pair in Denmark.

### **More information and forms**

On [www.newtodenmark.dk](http://www.newtodenmark.dk) you can find more information about the au pair rules. You can also find all relevant application form (AU1), as well as see the Immigration Service's case handling times.

You can also call the Immigration Service au pair hotline on tel.: +45 35 30 87 55, Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



## **Au pair residence permit**

A brief overview of the rules for au pairs and host families.

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