

Demi Pair & Au Pair Programs



Program Features

This unique program for young women combines full-time intensive English language or academic studies at Phoenix Academy with work as a mother's helper.

- Demi Pairs/Au Pairs are provided with free board plus an allowance in return for childcare and light household duties, for example:

CHILDCARE

Dressing and feeding children;
Taking children to school or day care;
Supervising playtime or homework;
Taking the children to the playground; and
Helping with bath and bed time.

LIGHT HOUSEHOLD DUTIES

Washing and vacuuming the floors;
Dusting and tidying living areas;
Helping with washing, folding and ironing clothes;
Helping the parents prepare meals; and
Setting the table and clearing up after meals.

- Demi Pairs work for 15 hours per week plus babysitting and must be enrolled full time at Phoenix Academy. Additional hours up to 20 per week may be negotiated for \$10 per hour.
- Au Pairs on Working Holiday Visas work 30 hours per week plus babysitting, it is compulsory to study a minimum of 4 weeks during which time they can work up to 20 hours per week.

English Language + Study Requirements

- Demi Pairs/Au Pairs MUST enrol in an English language or other academic program at Phoenix Academy in conjunction with their placement
- Demi Pairs/Au Pairs students must have a minimum English Language Level of Intermediate, however, there are also specific English requirements for courses other than General English.
- The period of Demi Pair placement and English study will be for a minimum of 12 weeks and maximum of 1 year.
- Au Pairs must complete a minimum of 4 weeks study.
- English language timetable is for 20 hours per week.

Visa Requirements

- Participants in the DPP must be either student or working holiday visa holders.
- The Au Pair Program is only available for Working Holiday Visa holders.

Work Options

There are two options of work:

OPTION ONE: 15 hours per week & one night babysitting \$80
(DEMI PAIRS ONLY – demi pairs can work up to 20 hours per week, additional hours \$10 per hour)

OPTION TWO: 30 hours per week & one night babysitting \$170
(AU PAIRS ONLY – au pairs can work fewer hours on agreement or additional hours at \$10 per hour)

Application Documentation

To be provided by the Applicant

Phoenix Academy requires all Demi Pair/Au Pair applications to be accompanied by a dossier containing (in English):

- Fully completed Phoenix Academy Application Form.
- Evidence of English competency level of Intermediate.
- Academic Transcripts (for those interested in University level studies).
- Photographs with commentaries.
- A Senior First Aid Certificate or equivalent.
- Two Child Care References.
- Two Character References.
- A Medical Report.
- A Letter of Introduction to the Host Family.
- A Police Clearance Certificate (no more than two years old).

To be provided by Phoenix Academy

Phoenix Academy will provide for the Demi Pair a dossier containing:

- Family application form showing full family particulars;
- Family photos; and
- Letter of welcome from the family.



Demi Pair Coordinator - Ann Lyall, together with our Demi Pair students: Franziska (left) & Jessica (right)



Demi Pair Student - Julia with the children



'A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DEMI PAIR!'

Hi my name is Julia and I'm a Demi Pair from Germany living with a family in Perth, Western Australia. My host family has three children, two girls age 8 and 5 and a boy of one. I'm going to tell you a little about what happens in my day and during my week. I work 15 hours per week and one night babysitting.

I start my day at 7am during the week, I have my shower and my breakfast before the kids get up and then check to see if there is any washing to hang out on the clothesline. I empty the dishwasher and help get the kids' breakfasts. I then quickly tidy the kids' rooms and dress their beds and I am on my way to school. Sometimes I have to drive the girls to school so I go a bit later. This takes me about half an hour before school, we start classes at 8.45am and finish at 1.45pm.

When I get home from school about 3.30pm I have a quick drink and a snack with the kids. If it is hot we go for a swim or we may go for a walk to the park to give their mother a break or let her go and do some exercise. If not I will perhaps do some ironing or help prepare the dinner. The family room is the area that gets most untidy so I help vacuum it and keep it tidy once the kids have finished playing there. On other days I might help the girls do their homework while their mother prepares dinner or baths the baby.

It is then time to set the table for dinner and help serve the kids, when we have finished eating I clear the table, stack the dishwasher and clean up the kitchen. While I am doing this my host mother will start getting the kids organised for bed, as soon as I am finished I will help out too. This is the busiest time of the day with three tired kids to settle so it is usually about 7.30-8.00pm before I can relax and watch some TV or do some homework!

Friday afternoons we finish school at 1.45 pm and I am usually free for the afternoon so I go off with my friends to the city or the beach.

I have to look after cleaning the bathroom and toilet that I share with the kids, so on Saturday morning I do my big clean up of that area, my bedroom and the kids' rooms. At this time my host mother is out with the kids so it is easy to get things done quickly without kids around. I will also catch up with the washing and ironing if necessary. Then I am free for the afternoon. I usually babysit once a week usually on a Saturday night. Sometimes if I work fewer hours during the week I may babysit twice or if I don't babysit one week I may do so twice the next week.

Of course I have time for a social life too but I always make sure that I check with my host mother first before making my own plans. It is also possible to go away for a weekend with friends and often the demi pairs go away for trips with their host families.

I hope this gives you a better idea of what to expect as a demi pair, it is quite a busy life but worthwhile if you like children and being part of a family it also helps you to save money on your accommodation while you study and most importantly you get to communicate a lot in English. You will also get a better idea of what it is like to be a mother!

I hope you enjoy your stay as a Demi Pair. Good luck!

Julia



PHOENIX
Academy

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Can I do an exam course as Demi Pair/Au Pair?

Yes, all courses are available as part of the Demi Pair/Au Pair Program.

- Demi Pair must study a minimum of 12 weeks
- Au Pair must study a minimum of 4 weeks

2. What is the minimum/maximum length of the Demi Pair/Au Pair Program?

- Demi Pair : The minimum is three months and the maximum is one year.
- Au Pair : The minimum is three months and the maximum is six months, however, au pairs may apply to extend their visa to stay with the same family for up to a year, this has to be done in Australia and conditions apply. This needs to be discussed with and approved by the Academy.

3. Can I take part in the Demi Pair/Au Pair Program without booking a course?

No, please see point 1 for minimum course time permitted.

4. Can I stay longer with the family after eg a 12 week course?

That will depend on your visa restrictions – check with your agent.

5. How long can I travel after the course?

This will depend on your visa restrictions – check with your agent.

6. Will I get the family's address in advance?

Yes, usually one month before your arrival.

7. Do the Host Families live far from the Language School?

Most Host Families live within 1 hours travelling time of the Language School.

8. What transport will I use to get to school?

That depends on the location of the Host Family, however, most Demi Pairs/Au Pairs catch the train and/or bus to get to school, some walk/cycle and a few drive to school.

9. What is the cost of public transport?

That depends on how many 'zones' you need to travel each day. For example, a ticket to travel through two public transport zones, twice per day (to and from school), for one week will cost approximately AUD\$18 (after student discount). Demi/Au Pairs who enrol for 4 weeks or more are entitled to apply for the student concession discount for public transport, also known as a 'Smart-Rider' card (for train & bus).

10. When will I have to work?

Usually for a short period before school, then after school and one day on the weekend depending on which work option you choose.

11. Will the family need me to drive?

Some families request Demi Pairs/Au Pairs to drive and for this you need to have a current International Driver's Licence. The family will give you some time to practise before taking on driving duties. Most families do not need drivers so it is not compulsory.

12. What if I don't get along with my Host Family?

In your first week you will meet the Co-ordinator who visits your school on a weekly basis, she will also give you her contact details for after hours, mobile and email address. It is your obligation to inform the Co-ordinator if you are not happy or if you have a problem. The Co-ordinator will advise you on what to do and if necessary change your family. Two weeks notice must be given to the family.



13. What happens if there is an emergency?

First contact your Host Family, if they are not available or you need to speak to someone at the school you can contact the Co-ordinator or school after hours number.

14. What can I expect from my Host Family?

Your Host Family will welcome you as part of the family, show you around in your first few days, assist you with getting to know the public transport etc. The family will sit down with you and explain your duties; they may give you a schedule to follow which is helpful at the beginning. They expect you to be a 'second pair of hands' to assist with the day-to-day running of family life so you need to be flexible, responsible and to show initiative at all times.

15. What sort of duties will I do?

Generally you will help out with the children and light household duties. It depends on the family and ages of the children how much of each you will do. Please refer to 'A Day in the Life of a Demi Pair' for more information.

16. Will I meet other Demi Pairs/Au Pairs?

Yes, there are usually several Demi Pairs/Au Pairs on campus and the Co-ordinator will introduce you to them or assist you in contacting other Demi/Au Pairs in your area. There is a weekly meeting time with the Co-ordinator during which you can meet new people.

17. Will I have enough free time if I am working in a family?

Yes, but you will need to be organised and make the most of your free time. As a Demi Pair/Au Pair you need to plan ahead and discuss your plans with the family. Your family will want you to enjoy your time in Australia and will encourage you to take trips or if possible come on holiday with them too. You will have free time at the weekends, usually Sunday is free and depending which work option you choose you may have part of Saturday free too.

18. Is it ok for my friends/family to come and stay/visit me?

You should not expect your Host Family to accommodate your friends or family. Any plans for you to have visitors should be discussed in detail with your Host Family prior to confirmation of your placement. Leave needs to be negotiated with the family and alternative accommodation organised by you for your visitors if they agree.

19. What is a Working With Children Check (WWCC)?

Anyone working with children in Australia is required by law to have this Police check. There are very large fines imposed if you work with children and do not have a WWCC card. You will be given the application form and instructions at Orientation. Please note there is a fee payable for the WWCC.



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