

We're with you every step of the way

MY APPLICATION GUIDE



THIS IS WHERE IT ALL BEGINS...

The journey to find your American host family has now begun. You are no doubt excited and want to find your perfect host family quickly. Now is the time for you to complete your application so that you can match with your ideal host family.

Inside this guide you'll find all the tips, tricks and information you need to create an unbeatable application that is filled with everything our host families are looking for. It might seem overwhelming at first but don't worry, we're with you all the way.

This application will be an online profile representing your childcare experience, hobbies, culture and personal life through different mediums, including photography, film and writing.

Use this chance to allow yourself to shine!



GO GO GO! Your application should take 2 weeks to complete. If you have any questions during this time, please contact your local office – we are always here to help!

SIX STEPS TO YOUR APPLICATION

- 01** Start Today & Match Tomorrow
- 02** Preparing your References
- 03** Host Family Letter
- 04** The Visuals
- 05** Submit Your Application
- 06** Start Matching

01 START TODAY & MATCH TOMORROW THINK LIKE A HOST FAMILY

There are many different sections to your application that involve some time and effort to complete. Go through all of the sections and have a brief look at what type of questions you have to answer, as well as what information you must gather before you begin.

TIP | Every host family is different. Be open towards regions across the USA, religions, ethnic affiliations, single parents, same sex couples and large families.

JUMP ONLINE AND COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION TODAY

Don't miss out on finding your ideal host family. Our host families are constantly searching for their perfect au pair, so it's important you're present.

» [CULTURALCARE.COM/APPLICATION](https://www.culturalcare.com/application)



01 START TODAY & MATCH TOMORROW THINK LIKE A HOST FAMILY

OUR HOST FAMILIES ARE LOOKING FOR AN AU PAIR WHO:

- » Embraces the cross-cultural experience
- » Is responsible, loving and caring to their host kids
- » Is honest and open, showing their goals and aspirations in life
- » Is trustworthy and committed to joining a family for an extended period of time
- » Is respectful and helpful while living in their home
- » Represents their childcare experience, home country culture, family life and hobbies



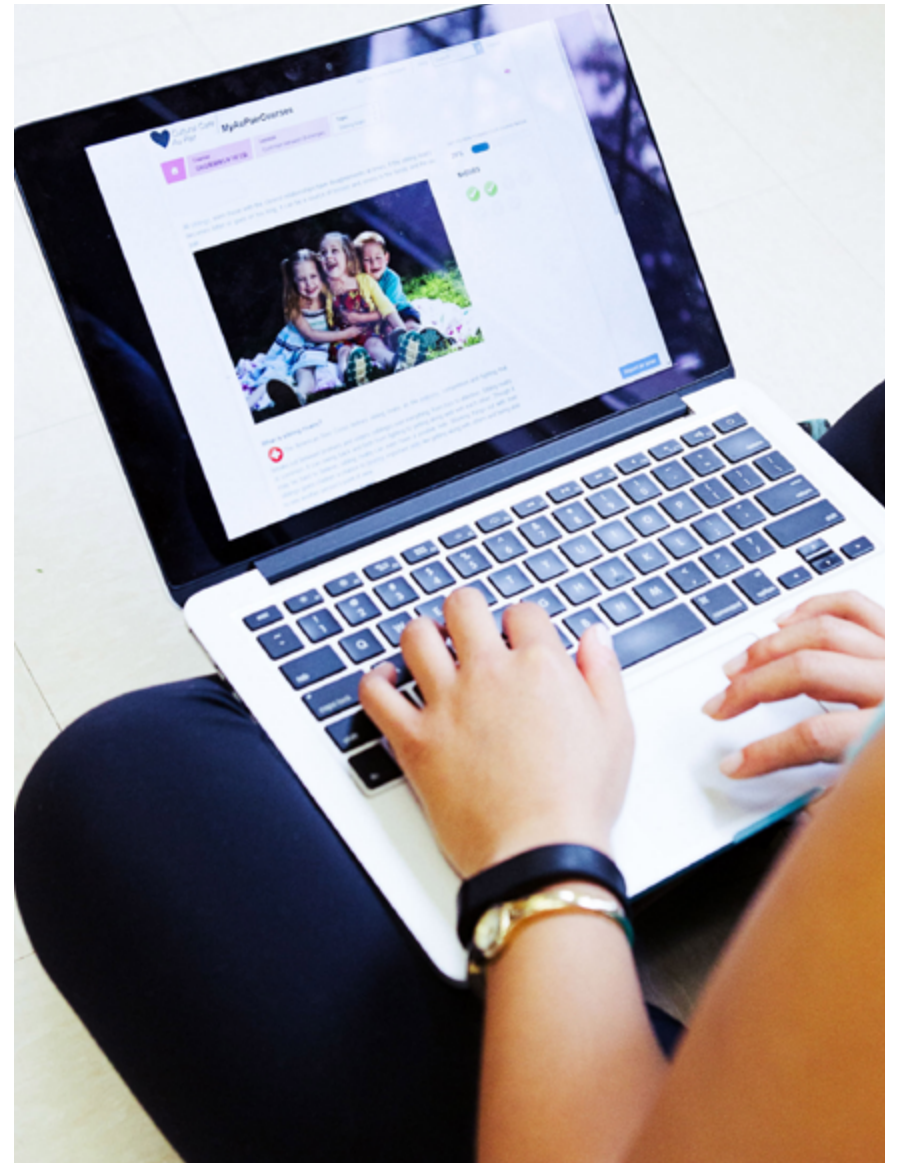
02 PREPARING YOUR REFERENCES THE BACKBONE OF YOUR APPLICATION

You will require two types of references along with your application, personal and childcare. You must provide three non-family references in your application.

Make sure to start contacting all of your references now to let them know of your exciting opportunity in the USA and to request that they make themselves available for contact by us.

This is the perfect time to ask your references if they think you will make a good au pair and for what reasons. You can use their input to fill in your application.

TIP | Every experience counts! It doesn't matter if it was a few years ago, try to contact all of your references. The more hours you have, the more chances you have to get matched quickly.



02 PREPARING YOUR REFERENCES THE BACKBONE OF YOUR APPLICATION

CHILDCARE REFERENCES

You must provide a minimum 200 hours of childcare experience in your references. All types of care count, such as daycare help, nursery school assistance or even taking care of your little niece. So make sure you add everything.

Parents of children
Kindergarten teachers
Group leaders
Employers

Name	Hours of Experience	Type of childcare	Non-family
Jane Smith	Teacher	Babysitting	y/n

PERSONAL REFERENCES

It is important that you also supply one to two personal references that represent your personality. Select people who know you well, whether they knew you as a child or in your life today.*

Teachers
Close family friends
Pastor/Rabbi
Neighbours

Name	Relationship	Non-family
John Cray	Teacher	y/n

* partners, family members and best friends do not qualify as personal references

02 PREPARING YOUR REFERENCES INCREASE YOUR CHANCES

Many of our host families are looking for au pairs who have experience caring for children under two years old. If you are qualified to care for infants, you may find a family much faster.

EXTRA BENEFITS CARING FOR INFANTS

SPECIALISED PREPARATION

Receive specialised training for taking care of infants in the US at our training school in New York.

GAIN FURTHER EXPERIENCE

Taking care of infants means you'll gain experience for your future in childcare or teaching.

MORE FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE

Potentially you'll have more weekends off as most working families will want to spend time with their little ones.



03 HOST FAMILY LETTER THE FIRST IMPRESSION COUNTS

The host family letter is the first thing they will see within your online profile. When you write directly towards the children and parents, your message will appear much more thoughtful. Be honest and open, share interesting facts about yourself, your hobbies and any special talents you might hold. By expressing your interests you will give a host family a much clearer idea of who you are and how you could fit into their home.

INCLUDE

- » Your life at home
- » Why you want to be an au pair
- » Hobbies and interests
- » What activities you would like to do with the children
- » What type of role model you will be
- » Qualifications and skills
- » Why you want to go to America and what you want to learn from your host family and their culture



TIP I Your application should represent your level of English, please do not use translator programs. Using Word auto-correct function will help with your spelling.

Imagine that the host family can't see the rest of your application, what do you want to tell them about yourself and your life?

03 HOST FAMILY LETTER THE FIRST IMPRESSION COUNTS

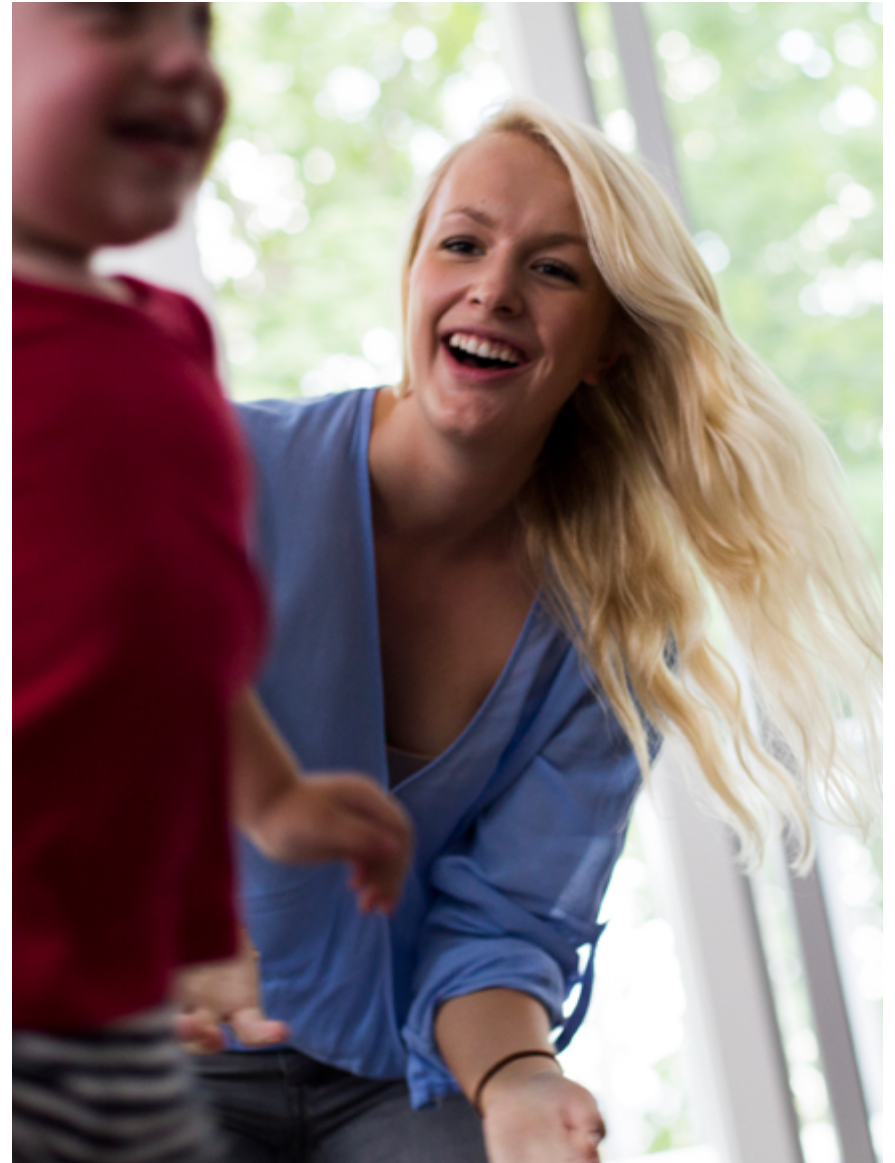
WHAT YOU SHOULD INCLUDE

Think of some interesting points about yourself that you would like to share with your ideal host family. Let them get to know you before they even meet you.

BE CREATIVE

Our host families love letters that spark their interest and reflect a flare of creativity. Make sure that your personality shines through with your choice of words.

TIP | It's nice to add something very personal to the children directly! Like, "I can't wait to meet you and I would really love to go on a special pirate treasure hunt with you when I arrive!". These small things kids will hold on to and remember because a lot of the time they are part of the process in choosing their new family member.



04 THE VISUALS PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD

Our host families want to see you in action. Providing them with a collection of photos and a video gives families a rounded idea of who you are. Throughout your application you have written about who you are, your hobbies, family life and why you want to be an au pair. So, now you can bring all these aspects to life through your choice of photos and your au pair video.

YOUR PHOTO ALBUM

Choose photos that represent why a family would want you to join them. Show photos that capture moments such as spending time with kids, doing activities you love or cooking your favourite meal. When selecting your profile picture, make sure you look natural and happy.



TIP I When selecting photos to share with host families make sure not to use posed shots that you would post on social media sites, such as Facebook or Instagram. Think about how you want to present yourself to the host family.

04 THE VISUALS PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD

PHOTO TIPS

20 photos maximum

Include captions under each photo

YOUR AU PAIR VIDEO

It doesn't need to be professional to be great.

It's easy!

IT SHOULD BE:

Recorded with your Smartphone

3 minutes maximum

In English

YOUR PHOTOS & VIDEOS SHOULD REFLECT:

- » Why you want to be an au pair
- » Your experience with children
- » Show your hobbies
- » Your family life



Follow the **'My photos and Video'** tab on your online application for more info and how to upload your video.

05 SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION CHECK, EDIT, SUBMIT

Once you've completed your application, you will submit it for feedback and approval, we are happy to help you make it even better. Once it's approved you will not be able to make changes, so make sure you complete all sections with a high standard of quality.

EXAMPLES OF EXTRA QUALIFICATIONS:

- » Babysitting course
- » Language courses
- » CPR course
- » Swimming/lifesaving certificate
- » Cooking courses
- » Safe driving course



TIP I We will review your application while you're working on it and often give you guidance and advice on how to make your skills stand out. Be open to feedback, it makes all the difference!

Extra qualifications will increase your chances of placement, so include them in your application!

06 START MATCHING

Once your application is complete, you can look forward to matching with a host family that suits you best.

CUSTOMISED INDIVIDUAL MATCHING

We are experts in the matching process and have been connecting host families and au pairs for over 27 years, so we understand what makes a perfect match. Every au pair and host family is unique with different wishes and expectations, that's why we believe in individual matching. Our team of experienced staff in the USA is closely involved in presenting you to the right families.

MATCH EARLY!

You can match early by completing only 80% of your application. Unlike any other agency you can now find your family quicker.

COMPLETE THESE SECTIONS TO BE ELIGIBLE:

About me

My qualifications

My au pair year

Minimum of 5 photos



Families come in all sorts of shapes and sizes
They live all over the USA
Keep an open mind to find your perfect match!

IN THE MEANTIME

- » Improve your English: Listen to a song, read a book, watch a film or talk to a friend in English.
- » Increase your chances of finding a host family by becoming qualified to care for infants.
- » Get your Physical Health Check from your local doctor.
- » Keep in contact with your local office on 808-004-56



START YOUR APPLICATION

culturalcare.com/application



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