

CHILDCARE IN EUROPE

"I just wanted to thank you and your company for making it possible for me to work abroad in Paris, France. While abroad I was able to live, work and gain the knowledge of how it is to survive in the "real world" An experience that I will take with me and surely share with others!!!" -Mila B.

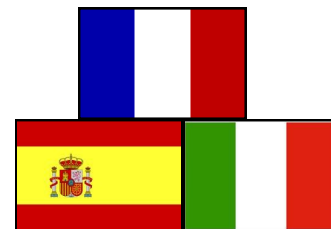


- **Who:** Participants age 18-30 with childcare experience and high school diploma. No foreign language necessary.
- **When:** Year round. Term length is 3 months- 1 year.
- **Where:** Positions available in Italy (Rome), France, Spain.
- **What:** Three months to one year placement taking care of a host family's children in exchange for room, board, and pocket money.
- **How:** First submit your Work Application, interview, then submit payment for the program: \$990 (Spain), \$1050 (France), \$1190 (Italy).

"Everything went really well with the arrival. The town is very nice, and not as small as I thought it would be... The family is great and so are the kids. I am hoping to start taking a language class here next week so I can start learning Catalan. Thanks for everything!" -Yasamin M.

"On behalf of Shamaya, I would like to thank you for the amazing job you have done helping her go to Italy. The Noli family has been so wonderful and have created such a warm atmosphere for her to join." -Benetta C., mother

Discover the *Similarities*...Share the *Differences*...



PERKS

Guaranteed Au Pair placement.

Pre-arranged private room and meals with host family.

Weekly stipend of US\$80-120.

Basic International Traveler's Insurance including Medical.

Full-time English speaking pre-departure and local support from our team of coordinators.



Join Our Community to ask questions:



Read blogs from current participants or email us: info@culturalembrace.com.

PROGRAM DETAILS & FAQs

Childcare in Europe Offers:

- An economical way to travel and live abroad
- A reference from your employer upon completion of your term
- An opportunity to broaden your perspective and worldview
- The ability to make lifelong friends from around the globe
- A chance to learn or build French, Italian, or Spanish language skills
- An opportunity to participate in and learn local cultural activities (e.g.: sports, music, cooking)
- Memorable travel experiences with the chance to see exotic sites you have always dreamed about
- A valuable work experience that strengthens your resume, exhibiting your diligence, independence, and intercultural experiences
- A great way to develop and support your self-confidence and interpersonal skills



Cultural Embrace Includes:

✓ **Guaranteed Family Placement Prior to Departure**

Cultural Embrace guarantees a pre-arranged paid position in the with a pre-screened host family. You will work with a C.E. Coordinator that will provide individualized support to help you find a potential family, and prepare you for an adventure to live and work abroad. Additionally, you will have a phone or Skype interview with the family before accepting the placement to ensure they are a good match.

✓ **Compensation**

Weekly stipend and room and board included. Stipend varies from country to country. The average net income is approximately US\$400/month. You will have one or two days per week off (not always consecutive) and often times you will have much of the day to yourself if the children are in school.

✓ **Room and Board**

Your placement includes a private room, and typically a shared bathroom with your sponsored family. All meals are included with your local family.

✓ **Visa Assistance**

Cultural Embrace will assist you with attaining a visa. Please contact your local foreign Embassy or Consulate to check details, or ask your *CE* coordinator. Please note that any visa fees are the responsibility of the applicant. And, while we can assist you during the process, ultimately it is your responsibility to ensure that you have obtained the appropriate visa for your work experience. *Cultural Embrace* has no control over the visa process and cannot guarantee that your visa application will be accepted.

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PROGRAM DETAILS & FAQs CONTINUED

- ✓ **Arrival Pick-up and Transfer**
Cultural Embrace will see to it that you are met at the closest airport, train or bus station by your host family and taken to your new home.
- ✓ **International Traveler's Insurance with Basic Major Medical Coverage**
Our policy provides basic medical coverage. Additional policies and premium plans are available at extra cost.
- ✓ **Language Lessons and Networking Opportunities**
Cultural Embrace will set up language lessons (if requested or required) that match your skill level. Our local partners have frequent meetings for Au Pairs in each area to maximize your networking opportunities.
- ✓ ***Cultural Embrace* "Culture Kit"**
Before your departure, we will send you a cultural kit that is filled with useful tips, advice, information, and your insurance card to prepare you for your amazing adventure of living and working abroad.
- ✓ **Full-time Representation**
Cultural Embrace provides English-speaking representation in the United States and France, Spain, and Italy prior to, during, and after your placement.

Requirements:

In order to participate in this Childcare in Europe Program, *Cultural Embrace* requires that you:

- Be 18-30 years of age
- Have childcare experience
- Be open to foreign cultures and living abroad
- Possess a high school diploma and level of responsibility
- Be dedicated to the full term of commitment
- Enjoy providing a service and working with others in a challenging environment
- Have knowledge of destination's mother tongue or willingness to learn



2012 Program Fees:

Spain	France	Italy
US\$990	US\$1050	US\$1190

*Non-EU citizens cannot work more than 3 months in Europe unless traveling on student visa.

**Program fees do not include visa fees.

***Please note prices are subject to change according to world currency exchange rates.

****Prices listed in US Dollars; AUD\$, CAN\$, £,€ accepted.

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How to Apply:

1. Obtain the **Work Abroad Application Forms & Procedures** documents in one of two ways:
 - (a) Download the forms from our website at www.culturalembrace.com
 - (b) Call *Cultural Embrace* at 1-512-469-9089 or Skype: Cultural.Embrace to have the forms mailed to you within 3-4 days.
2. Read the instructions carefully and *complete all forms*.
3. Submit your completed application packet to:

Cultural Embrace
7201 Bill Hughes Road
Austin, TX 78745 USA



Completed packets should include the following:

- Work Program Application
- Signed Work Agreement
- Copy of your passport (information page only)
- University/College transcript (unofficial is fine)
- Resume/CV
- Cover Letter addressed to potential families explaining why you want to participate in Childcare in Europe
- Two References: preferably childcare and/or character references
- Doctor's note verifying that you are in excellent mental and physical health
- Copy of Police Clearance (obtainable from your community's local police station)
- Two 1½" x 2" official passport-size photos, with your name printed on each photo
- One smiling full-length photo of yourself (for local coordinator to identify you)
- US\$250 non-refundable deposit (credited towards your program fee)

Upon receipt of your application, a *Cultural Embrace* coordinator will contact you for a 20-30 minute phone interview. Once we accept you in to our program, you will receive an invoice for the remainder of your program fee. In order for us to contact our local partners to start your placement process, we require at least 50% of your program costs.

We recommend submitting your application and program fee at least 3 months prior to your desired start date in order for us to organize and arrange your placement.

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**Cultural Embrace* requires an expedited application fee for those applying 12 weeks or less before the desired date of departure. Applications received 8-12 weeks prior to desired departure date will be charged \$150. Applications received fewer than 8 weeks before the desired departure date will be charged \$250. *Cultural Embrace* cannot place participants with fewer than 4 weeks notice in the Childcare in Europe Program.



Frequently Asked Questions:

1) *Why should I pay to work abroad, and where does my money go to with Cultural Embrace?*

Cultural Embrace and our local partners in France, Spain, and Italy specialize in arranging a guaranteed Au Pair placement, housing and insurance prior to your departure. This will alleviate the troubles and stress of getting everything organized in a new country, so you will have more time and energy to spend on your work and living abroad. Your time abroad will still be an independent and memorable one, but we are here to guide you to a safe, healthy and comfortable experience before, during, and after your adventure.

You will be assigned an experienced Program Coordinator from our Austin, Texas office. He/She will provide personalized attention to help pre-arrange your Au Pair placement, housing and travel needs. Our Program Coordinator will work with our in-country representative to match your requests and background skills with the availability and needs of the local families. Once you go abroad, you will be assisted by our in-country representative, and will typically have a direct supervisor for your Au Pair placement, as well.

Your program fee includes your Au Pair placement, housing and meals with the host family, weekly stipend, basic international traveler's insurance, and all of the administrative and logistical costs to set up your placement in the States and abroad. *Cultural Embrace* also pro-rates the expenses for marketing, advertising, and site visits/communication among all of our programs within our fees.

2) *How do you select the local families?*

Our in-country representatives carefully screen and interview the families that we work with. Each family must meet specific standards for them to receive an au pair. This includes a clean, safe, and comfortable living condition for the au pair, as well as expectations for meals and local transportation.

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3) *May I choose where I will be placed?*

We currently have partners and placements in France, Spain, and Italy. In Italy, placements are made in Rome, Milan, Florence and the surrounding suburbs. Placements in smaller towns and seaside cities are available only for <90 days duration. In France and Spain, placements are available in the suburbs of major cities. We will certainly take your preferred location into account, however, flexibility in destination and region is required. Please note that placements are made based on availability and the family's acceptance of your application. The more flexible you are with the destination, the better it will be to find a family that matches your preferences.



4) *What is the application process like, and when will I have confirmation about my placement?*

After C.E. receives your completed application, you will be assigned a personal Program Coordinator who will work with you through your departure and beyond. He/She will conduct ~30 phone/web interview (or in person, if applicable) to discuss your background, goals, and expectations of a childcare position. Then, you will receive an invoice for the remainder of the program, and once we receive at least half of this fee, we will send your resume/CV and cover letter to find local families that fit your preference and needs. Most families will want to conduct a phone interview with you, which your Program Coordinator will prepare you for accordingly. Placements are confirmed prior to departure with both Au Pairs and families agreeing on the terms, duties, responsibilities, and schedule.

5) *What are the living conditions like?*

You will be living with the family that you are working for. Most of the placements will include a private room and a bathroom shared with the children. You will also have use of the common areas and the kitchen. Please be considerate to follow their house rules and to clean up after yourself. Note that European homes may be smaller than North American homes, and they are more energy efficient with the use of air-conditioners and heaters.

6) *How long will I work, and can I take time off to travel?*



Your work schedule will be assigned by your family, but you will probably average 30 hours per week with 1-2 days off per week (but it may not be consecutive days nor weekends). Each family has its own schedule arrangement, based on the children's school and social schedule that you should be willing to accept. Most families grant a week of paid vacation time after 6 months of service, and often invite their au pair to accompany

them on family vacations as well! Of course you are encouraged to travel, but please consult with your family to see if you can organize a schedule that will be effective for all parties involved. Most families prefer hiring long-term Au Pairs that become familiar

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with the children and family. However, please note visa regulations may require you to take language lesson beyond 3 months to study and obtain a student visa while you an Au Pair in Europe.

7) *What type of visa assistance does Cultural Embrace provide?*

Each country has varied visa regulations. Contact your *Cultural Embrace* representative to receive more information about your specific country. Visa regulations will either need the host family to submit an invitation letter, or you may need to enroll in to minimal language classes in order to obtain a student visa. If the latter, please note that language tuition will be at your own expense. Please note that any visa fees are the responsibility of the applicant. And, while we try to assist you during the process, ultimately it is your responsibility to ensure that you have obtained the appropriate visa for your work experience. *Cultural Embrace* has no control over the visa process and cannot guarantee that your visa application will be accepted.



8) *What is the language requirement?*

Most families prefer au pairs/nannies with at least some knowledge of the local language. However, placements can be made for those with little or no foreign language knowledge within bilingual, English-speaking families. If you wish to take language lessons before or during your placement, *Cultural Embrace* can organize that too.

9) *Do I have to have experience?*

Previous experience working with children is necessary, though types of experience can vary (babysitting, teaching, volunteering at a day care, etc.). *Cultural Embrace* recommends volunteering at children's centers to gain extra experience. The host family will review, interview (Skype or phone) and accept the Au Pair they want working for them.

10) *What should I bring to wear?*

Since you will be working at the family's home, it is quite casual, but we also recommend that you look respectful. More details will be provided to you in your *Cultural Embrace* pre-departure kit.

11) *How long will it take to make my placement?*

We ask applicants to apply at least 3-4 months in advanced of your desired start date. The placement may take less time than this, but we want to ensure that we have enough time to find a great placement for you! There are additional administrative fees if you apply less than 3 months in advanced, and we do not contact our local partners until we receive at least 50% of the program fee payment.

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12) *When should I buy my plane ticket and does Cultural Embrace provide any resources to help with plane tickets?*

Plane tickets should not be purchased until after your placement has been confirmed. *Cultural Embrace* works with consolidators and discount travel agencies that can help find cheaper tickets than those that are available to the general public. We also have a partnership with STA Travel (1-877-236-1048) for great student/youth rates, and they have a very nominal service fee if you need to make changes before or during your travel plans.



13) *Can I work and/or live with a friend or partner?*

You can enroll in this program with other people, but please note there is no guarantee you will be placed in the same area, except if you are applying for positions in Rome, Italy. We cannot arrange for you to live with your friend/partner, since the majority of families will only accept one live-in au pair.

14) *What do I do if I have a problem or complaint within my work placement?*

You should first speak to your host family to give them an opportunity to explain or investigate the situation. If the complaint still exists, then please contact your bi-lingual local representative in the host country, as well as let *Cultural Embrace* (Austin office), know so we may diplomatically mediate on your behalf. Please note that you will be assigned an in-country representative that will assist you with any questions or concerns. We also encourage you to fill out our program evaluations.

15) *Is there someone I may speak to about their experience on this program, and being abroad?*

Yes, we have a network of current and past travelers that are happy to communicate with you. Due to confidentiality, please contact our Austin office to receive a list of names and contact information of participants and alumni that have agreed to be contacted by others. Additionally, we encourage you to check out, use, and get involved with our social media community. These community sites will provide great insight of what you should expect on your adventure abroad. Plus, we provide additional discounts to our community members!



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Facebook Page: (<http://www.facebook.com/CulturalEmbraceTravel>)

Twitter: (<http://twitter.com/culturalembrace>)

Blog: (http://www.culturalembrace.com/log/cat_Childcare_blogs.html)

Youtube: (<http://www.youtube.com/user/CulturalEmbrace1>)

A Few Words. . .

At *Cultural Embrace*, we want to facilitate experiences that, first and foremost, help individuals have a safe and healthy time abroad while becoming better acquainted with both themselves and the richly textured cultures of the world around them. Our partnerships with local families offer participants the opportunity to explore childcare work abroad first-hand while adding valuable content to their resumes. Childcare in Europe is, putting it shortly, a tremendously edifying experience that is sure to leave you with lasting memories and a renewed sense of purpose. So do yourself a favor: call *Cultural Embrace* straight away and let us start planning your once-in-a-lifetime international adventure!

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@culturalembrace.com or by phone at 1-512-469-9089 or Skype: Cultural.Embrace.



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