

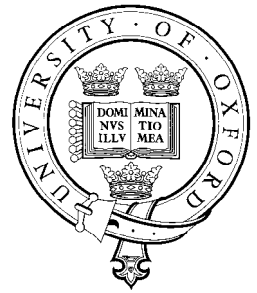
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**COMPAS Research Project:  
“Changing status, changing lives?”**

**Questionnaire for mail survey of  
Host Families of au pairs in the UK (F)**

December 2004

**This survey is anonymous, confidential and purely statistical.  
No details of individual respondents or families will be revealed.**

**F1. Are you (*please circle*):** Male      Female

**F2. Are you (*please circle*):** Under 18      18-21  
22-30      31-40  
41-50      51-60  
61-70      71+

**F3. Are you (*please circle*):**

Single	Married, living together
Separate	Married, living apart
Divorced	Co-habiting with man
Widowed	Co-habiting with woman

**F4. Do you have children living with you (*please circle*):**

Yes      No

*If yes, please write their ages:*

**F5. What is your nationality?** \_\_\_\_\_

**F6. What is your occupation?** \_\_\_\_\_

**F7. Would you describe yourself as (*please circle*):**

Black                      White                      Other  
Asian                      Mixed                      Decline to answer

**F8. Do you have any of the following:** GCSE 'O' Levels or equivalent  
GCSE 'A' Levels or equivalent  
Degree  
Post graduate qualification

**F9. Please indicate your household's annual income:** Under £20,000  
£20,000-50,000  
£50,000+

**F10. From which countries have you hosted au pairs and how long has each au pair stayed with you?**

*Please begin with your current au pair*

Nationality of Au Pair	Gender of Au Pair	Date of arrival in your family (MM/YY)	Date of leaving your family (MM/YY)

**F11. Do you currently employ any of the following (not including your au pair)**

	Yes	No
Cleaner		
Childminder		
Live-in nanny		
Live-out nanny		
Mother's help		
Other carer		
Cook		
Housekeeper		
Driver		
Other household staff		

**F12. Looking at the following statements, which for you are those that best describe your reasons for having help in the home? (you may tick more than one)**

Child/elder care available when I need it	
Allows me to go out to work	
Increases household security	
Allows me to entertain	
Stops arguments over housework	
Allows me to have more time with my children	
Allows me to have more time with my partner	
Helps her to improve her situation	
It's impossible to live without one	
It's cheaper than other options available	
Keeps the house clean and tidy	
Provides more personal care than other options available	
Gives me some company in the house	
Allows me more flexibility with work hours	
Allows my partner to go out to work	
Other (please specify)	

**F13. Which of these describes the positive aspects of hosting an au pair? (you may tick more than one)**

Au pairs are more flexible than other forms of childcare	
Au pairs are prepared to live in	
Au pairs are a more economical form of childcare	
Au pairs are more like part of the family than an employee	
Au pairs will do both childcare and housework	
Au pairs do not have family and friends to distract them	
Au pairs are more hardworking than many British young people	
Au pairs are likely to stay for longer than other childcarers	
There is less bureaucracy having an au pair than other form of childcare	
Au pairs appreciate the opportunity to come to the UK	
Other (please specify)	

**F14. Looking at the following statements, which for you best describe the NEGATIVE aspects of having an au pair? (you may tick more than one)**

They can use my home as their own		I have to consider their influence on my partner	
They can gossip about me		They can become jealous of my position	
I don't feel free to do as I like inside my home		It's socially embarrassing	
I have to deal with the au pair's personal problems		It's very expensive	
I have to deal with too much bureaucracy		I have to keep my house tidy	
		It's a lot of responsibility	
I have to consider their influence on my children		It makes me feel guilty	
Other (please specify)			

**F15. Would you ever consider hosting a male au pair?**

- 1  yes (*please skip to question F17*)  
 2  no (*please continue with question F16*)

**F16. Why would you not consider hosting a male au pair?**

**F17. Do you have a preference as to which nationality of au pair you prefer to host?**

- 1  yes (*please continue with question F18*)  
 2  no (*please skip to question F19*)

**F18. Which nationality of au pair do you prefer to host?**

- 1  a national of the EU 15 (i.e. **pre-Enlargement EU**)<sup>1</sup>  
 2  Czechs  
 3  Lithuanians  
 4  Poles  
 5  Slovaks  
 6  Bulgarians  
 7  Turkish  
 8  other, specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**F19. Which of the following factors determine the nationalities of the au pairs you host?  
 (you may tick more than one)**

- 1  cost of flights and visas  
 2  language skills  
 3  education  
 4  work experience  
 5  age  
 6  “work ethic”  
 7  good with children  
 8  immigration requirements  
 9  likely to stay for a while  
 10  good at housework  
 11  you have previous experience of hosting this nationality  
 12  recommendation by the agency  
 13  luck of the draw  
 14  other (please specify).....

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<sup>1</sup> Please see the back of this booklet for a list of the EU15 countries

**F20. Do you usually use an au pair agency to find your au pair?**

- 1  Yes (*please go to Q F21*)  
 2  No (*please skip to QF23*)

**F21. Why do you use an au pair agency?**  
(*you may tick more than one*)

- 1  it is too time consuming to find someone myself  
 2  cheaper than recruiting myself  
 3  fewer problems with immigration  
 4  less paper work  
 5  the agency will check references  
 6  I am more confident that the au pair will be reliable  
 7  other, \_\_\_\_\_

**F22. What are the characteristics that you look for in an agency?**

- 1  that they recruit in specific countries  
 2  they are not too expensive  
 3  they offer a wide choice of au pairs  
 4  they deal with references  
 5  they provide a follow up service  
 6  that they are a member of BAAPA/IAPA  
 6  that they have been recommended by a friend  
 7  other \_\_\_\_\_

**F23. How much pocket money do you give your au pair?**

\_\_\_\_\_ £ per week

**F24. For approximately how many hours per week are you helped by your au pair (including babysitting)**

\_\_\_\_\_ hours

**F25. Which of these benefits do you provide for your au pair? Does s/he have to contribute to any costs incurred?**

	Provide free of charge	Provided, but au pair makes contribution to cost	Not provided
Accommodation			
Heating and other bills			
Telephone			
Food			
Toiletries			

**F26. Do you look after your au pair's passport?**

- 1  yes  
2  no

**F27. Do you have a written agreement with your au pair?**

- 1  yes  
2  no

**F28. Have you ever had any problems with an au pair?**

- 1  yes (*Continue with F29*)  
2  no (*Skip to F30*)

**F29. What kinds of problems have you had, and what, if anything did you do in response?**

Problem	Measure Taken, if any
a1.	a2.
b1.	b2.
c1.	c2.
d1.	d2.

**F30. Do you think other families sometimes host au pairs who do not have proper au pair visas?**

- 1  yes (*continue with F31*)  
2  no (*skip to F32*)  
3  don't know (*skip to F32*)

**F31. Why do you think that some families host au pairs without visas?**

(*you may tick more than one*)

- 1  it is quicker  
2  it is cheaper  
3  less paperwork  
4  they don't know about the au pair's visa status  
5  they are not interested in the au pair's visa status  
6  it is more important that the candidate is suitable than that she has an au pair visa  
8  other

**F32. In your opinion, are there any problems with the current au pair system?**

- 1  yes (*continue with F33*)  
2  no (*skip to F34*)

**F33. In your opinion, what are the main problems with the current au pair system and what are your policy recommendations that would address these problems?**

Problem	Recommendation
a1.	a2
b1.	b2
c1.	c2
d1.	d2
e1.	e2

**F34. Do you have the same au pair now as in April 2004 (i.e. pre EU Enlargement)?**

- 1  yes (*please skip to question 37*)  
 2  no (*please continue with question 35*)

**F35. Do you know what your former au pair is now doing?**

- 1  yes (please specify).....  
 2  no

**F 36. Why do you no longer host that au pair? (you may tick more than one)**

- 1  our family circumstances have changed  
 2  we wanted another form of childcare  
 3  our au pair wanted to find another job  
 4  our au pair's visa expired  
 5  we had a personal disagreement with the au pair  
 6  the au pair became more demanding  
 7  we just wanted a change  
 8  other (please specify).....

*Those who are hosting an au pair from the EU-25<sup>2</sup> please answer F37, those who host an au pair from outside the EU-25 please skip to F38*

**F37. Do you think access to the labour market made/makes a difference to your au pair's experience of life in the UK?**

- 1  yes, and the change has been the better for her/him  
 2  yes, and the change has been the worse for her/him  
 3  no

*Please skip to F39*

<sup>2</sup> Please see the back of this booklet for a list of the EU-25 countries

**F38. Do you think access to the labour market would a difference to your au pair’s experience of life in the UK?**

- 1  yes, and the change would be better for her/him
- 2  yes, and the change would be worse for her/him
- 3  no

**F39. What effects has EU Enlargement had on your family’s experience of hosting an au pair?(You may tick more than one)**

- 1  the au pair has become more like a nanny
- 2  managing our relationship with the au pair has become easier
- 3  managing our relationship with the au pair has become more difficult
- 4  there is less bureaucracy to deal with for our au pair
- 5  the au pair has become more demanding
- 6  the amount of pocket money the au pair has has gone up
- 7  the amount of pocket money the au pair has has gone down
- 8  the au pair visits their own family more frequently
- 9  the au pair has extra jobs which is better for us
- 10  the au pair has extra jobs which is worse for us
- 11  other (please specify).....
- 12  EU Enlargement has made no difference to us

**F40. Following EU Enlargement are you more or less likely to host an au pair from an Enlargement state?**

- 1  I am more likely to host an au pair from an Enlargement State  
Because.....
- 2  I am less likely to host an au pair from an Enlargement State  
Because.....
- 3  EU Enlargement has made no difference to my preferences

**F41. Has EU Enlargement made any difference to how you would find an au pair?**

- 1  yes, I am more likely to use the internet
- 2  yes, I am more likely to use an overseas agency
- 3  yes, I am more likely to use personal contacts
- 4  yes, other means (please specify).....
- 5  no, it has made no difference

**F42. Have there been any other changes resulting from EU Enlargement that you would like to mention?**

**THANK YOU FOR ASSISTING US BY COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO MAKE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON THIS PAGE.**