

Au Pairs and Driving – BAPAA Recommendations



If you are from an EU or EEA* Country (see list below), then you can drive on your home country licence. From most other Countries, provided your licence remains valid, you can drive for up to 12 months. To carry on driving after 12 months, you must have obtained a provisional British driving licence and passed a driving test before the 12 months lapses. For more information, visit

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/DriverLicensing/DrivingInGbOnAForeignLicence/DG_4022556

Before you drive in the UK for the first time, it is vital to be sure that your host family has arranged insurance cover for you with their motor insurer so that you are legally covered when you drive their car. BAPAA recommends that you ask to see evidence that your name has been included on the family's motor insurance policy. As an adult, UK Law considers you to be a responsible person and you should only agree to drive if you are satisfied that you are insured!

BAPAA recommends that all Au Pairs who are required to drive as part of their routine are given a course of driving lessons by a qualified British driving instructor. The instructor will report to the family when he/she feels that you have reached the correct degree of confidence required.

Remember:

- The controls in UK cars are on the opposite side
- The roads are very different
- The UK has more roundabouts and you have to drive clockwise around them.
- Traffic coming from the right has priority
- In the UK, we drive on the left hand side
- The speeds are given in miles per hour (not kilometres per hour)
- In built up areas, the speed limit is 30mph and in some areas 20 miles per hour
- On B roads the speed limit is 60 mph and will soon be reduced to 50 mph
- On A roads, the speed limit is 70 mph where there are dual carriageways
- There are many speed cameras in use in the UK and speed limits are enforced very strictly. If you exceed a speed limit, you are likely to be traced by the Police and could easily be disqualified from driving or heavily fined
- Double yellow lines mean no parking at any times. In some areas, your car may be clamped or towed away if illegally parked.
- If you drive into Central London, you have to pay a congestion charge, currently £8 per day. You can pay this on the internet by phone or at certain shops and petrol stations and at central car parks within the zone. For more information on where the congestion charge starts, and how to pay, go to www.tfl.gov.uk/roadusers/congestioncharging

Petrol used by an au pair in connection with work is paid for by the family, but most au pairs will have to pay for petrol for their personal use. This needs to be discussed at the beginning of the au pair's stay.

You can get directions of how to get from one place to another at the AA website

www.theaa.com/route-planner/index.jsp

*Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden UK. Switzerland is not in the EEA but an international treaty means that Swiss Nationals have similar rights.