



2011 GENERAL TAX INFORMATION FOR AU PAIRS

Au Pair in America realizes that the issue of taxes can be confusing for au pairs. For general tax questions, we suggest you review the information below. However, Au Pair in America is not responsible for the interpretation of the information within this document, or any changes to IRS rules or forms that may occur. Neither Au Pair in America, nor its Community Counselors, can provide any official tax advice. We recommend that you contact a tax professional if you have any questions regarding these matters.

Will I owe taxes on my weekly stipends?

Because the IRS* (Internal Revenue Service) considers an au pair to be an 'employee of the host family', the weekly au pair stipend is considered to be taxable as earned wages**.

Why do I need to file my taxes?

It is the law here in the United States to file a tax return and report earnings made during a calendar year. If an au pair chooses not to file taxes it could prevent her from obtaining a visa in the future. If an au pair is planning to apply for a visa in the future or a change in status, she may be required to pay any unpaid taxes.

When do I need to do to file a tax return?

A federal U.S. tax return for income earned in 2011 should be filed with the IRS no later than April 17th. This should be submitted to the IRS along with payment for any taxes owed. (For example: on April 17th, 2012, tax returns are due for stipends (wages) earned between January 1, and December 31, 2011). If you do not file by the deadline of April 17, 2012 you may be subject to a penalty.

How will I know how much money I made in a calendar year?

You should keep a record of the payments you received from your host family (ies) during the year. We have prepared a "stipend payment form" which you can use, or you can create your own form for keeping track of the money you earn.

How much will I owe on my taxes?

The amount of income tax you may owe depends on when you arrived in the U.S.

Most au pairs who have been in the US for at least 18 weeks in a calendar year will meet the minimum requirement to pay taxes. (14 weeks for au pair extraordinaires) The Exemption Deduction is \$3700 for 2011 (per the 2011 IRS 1040NR-EZ instruction book, page 6). An au pair **is not required to file** a U.S. federal individual income tax return if her U.S. source income is in an **amount less than the personal exemption amount (\$3700 for 2011)** (Refer to [Publication 501](#)).

How do I file taxes? –Step by Step Guide. *This guide is intended to give general instructions, and should not substitute for the advice or instructions given by the IRS or a certified accountant.*

Step 1 – Get a Social Security number or Tax ID number. If you do not already have one, please consult the below material

Social Security Number:

http://www.aupairinamerica.com/resources/life_in_the_us/ /procedure_4.asp

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/international/article/0,,id=96420,00.html>

Step 2- Calculate how much you have earned during the previous calendar year. Ideally you have kept track using the Au Pair in America stipend form. If not, please calculate using the number of weeks you worked as an au pair in the United States the previous calendar year. Remember that you begin receiving your stipend one week after your arrival in the U.S.

An example – see sample form.

You were here for 30 weeks in 2011 and earned stipend for those 30 weeks
You earned \$195.75* per week
Your total earnings would be
 $30 \times 195.75 = \$5872.50 = \5873 (always round up to the nearest dollar amount)
(this rate will vary based upon when you arrived in 2011 and what program you were participating in when you earned the stipend)

Step 3: Au Pairs should fill out and file a 1041NR-EZ

<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040nre.pdf>

This is a link to instruction booklet <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1040nre.pdf>

Below are some helpful tips for filling out the 2011 tax form.

1. Enter the total amount you earned in 2011 on line 3, line 7, line 10 and line 12. This would be your weekly stipend multiplied by the number of weeks you were in the US in 2011.
2. Au pairs should not have any itemized deductions, so the amount entered on line 11 would be '0'.
3. Enter the 2011 exemption amount of \$3,700 on line 13.
4. Subtract the exemption amount (\$3,700) from your income reported on line 12 and put on line 14. This is your taxable income.
5. Look up your taxable income amount in the tax tables which are included in the instructions (page 17) to see the amount you will owe in taxes. Put this amount on line 17 and on line 25 of form 1041NR-EZ.

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6. Don't forget to sign your form at the bottom.
7. You must fill out the other side of the form (page 2)
8. Put your home country on line A
9. Lines C,D, and F should all say 'no'
10. For section E, you should put 'J-1'
11. In section G, you should start with your arrival date in the U.S. and list any dates that you left the country for any trips (either your own vacation or your host family's vacation)/ Then add up all the days that you were in the U.S. during 2011 and enter this number in section H.

(See sample 1040NR-EZ form)

Step 8: Filing your return and payments: You must send your form 1040NR-EZ with payment to the following address:

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Austin, TX 73301-0215

If you return to your home country before tax filing is due, you may either submit your taxes before you leave the US or you can contact certain US embassies overseas (see below) for help in filing taxes once you return home.

The IRS has permanent staff in 4 US embassies and consulates overseas. These offices can help with accounting questions/problems and would also know how au pairs can submit payment and where to submit payment.

Frankfurt – Tel: 49 69 7535-3834, Hours M – F 8-4
London – Tel: 44 207-894-0476, Hours T-Thurs. 9-1 and 2-4
Paris – Tel – 33 01 4312-2555, Hours 9-noon
Beijing – Tel: 86 10-8531-3000, Hours – appointments only

Additional Resources

IRS information for au pairs:

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/international/article/0,,id=96420,00.html>

For au pairs submitting a tax return, the following services may be helpful. Please note that Au Pair in America is not recommending and cannot guarantee these services.

- www.HRBlock.com
- www.CompleteTax.com
- <http://www.rttax.com> or <http://www.taxback.com>
- <https://www.taxact.com>

We hope that this information is useful for your tax planning purposes. If you have questions, please consult the resources listed in this information sheet for your specific situation.

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- Please note: While federal income tax is required, au pairs may also be required to pay state income tax depending upon what state you lived in when you received your weekly stipend. As each state has different regulations, it will be important for you to check on your state's tax revenue website for specifics. Some online tax services have a combined service for Federal and State tax filing - <https://www.taxact.com> – is an example of this.

*IRS (Internal Revenue Service) – Government agency responsible for tax collection and tax law enforcement.

** Earned wages – the amount of money that you receive weekly from your host family

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Schedule OI- Other Information (see instructions)

Answer all questions

A Of what country or countries were you a citizen or national during the tax year?

B In what country did you claim residence for tax purposes during the tax year?

C Have you ever applied to be a green card holder (lawful permanent resident) of the United States? **Yes** **No**

D Were you ever:
1. A U.S. citizen? **Yes** **No**
2. A green card holder (lawful permanent resident) of the United States? **Yes** **No**

If you answer "Yes" to **(1)** or **(2)**, see Pub. 519, chapter 4, for expatriation rules that may apply to you.

E If you had a visa on the last day of the tax year, enter your visa type. If you did not have a visa, enter your U.S. immigration status on the last day of the tax year.

F Have you ever changed your visa type (nonimmigrant status) or U.S. immigration status? **Yes** **No**
 If you answered "Yes," indicate the date and nature of the change. ►

G List all dates you entered and left the United States during 2011 (see instructions).
Note. If you are a resident of Canada or Mexico AND commute to work in the United States at frequent intervals, **check the box for Canada or Mexico** and skip to item H Canada Mexico

Date entered United States mm/dd/yy	Date departed United States mm/dd/yy

Date entered United States mm/dd/yy	Date departed United States mm/dd/yy

H Give number of days (including vacation, nonworkdays, and partial days) you were present in the United States during:
 2009, 2010, and 2011

I Did you file a U.S. income tax return for any prior year? **Yes** **No**
 If "Yes," give the latest year and form number you filed ►

J Income Exempt from Tax—If you are claiming exemption from income tax under a U.S. income tax treaty with a foreign country, complete (1) and (2) below. See Pub. 901 for more information on tax treaties.

1. Enter the name of the country, the applicable tax treaty article, the number of months in prior years you claimed the treaty benefit, and the amount of exempt income in the columns below. Attach Form 8833 if required (see instructions).

(a) Country	(b) Tax treaty article	(c) Number of months claimed in prior tax years	(d) Amount of exempt income in current tax year

(e) Total. Enter this amount on Form 1040NR-EZ, line 6. Do not enter it on line 3 or line 5

2. Were you subject to tax in a foreign country on any of the income shown in 1(d) above? **Yes** **No**

