

Demi pair programme 2025

What is a Demipair programme?

This programme offers a great opportunity for students of Spanish to fully immerse themselves in Spanish life. It is a cultural exchange, not a job. Students are welcomed into the homes of our Spanish host families as a member of the family. In return, they assist with childcare, help with light housework and teach the children of the house a new language.

Age:	Between 18 and 30 years of age.
Sex:	Both girls and boys (although families normally require girls).
Period:	From 3 months (in summer it might be possible to arrange a shorter period) to 1 year. Recommended starting dates: September, January and April. Summer months can be difficult as many families go on holidays.
Working hours:	They will be contracted to work 20 hours per week , plus one night babysitting.
Free days:	Two free days per week (might be during the week or at the weekend), not less than one Sunday per month and shall have full opportunity to take part in religious worship.
Pocket money:	50€ per week
Insurance:	The student has to take care of her/his own insurance.
Medical certificate:	The Demi pair shall have a medical certificate, established less than three months before placement, declaring his/her general state of health.
Language course:	The programme includes a Spanish language course (Intensive 20) of 12 weeks although if the period of Demipair is longer we recommend that they take a course for the whole length of the stay. In this case the demi pair will be given adequate time to attend; every facility as regards the arrangement of working hours shall be accorded to this end.
Arrival:	The Demi pair will be met by either the family or a representative of the family at the airport, bus station or train station in Valencia. If the family cannot meet the Demi pair then they should pay for onward travel.
Family life:	The family will treat the Demipair as part of the family . She/he will receive board and lodging and will have a single room and facilities for studying.
Job duties	<div> The most common are: Looking after children Playing with them Helping with homework Teaching them English or another language. </div> <div> Picking them up from school Cooking dinner for the children (normally they will have dinner with them) Taking them to evening activities Bathing them </div>

Going to the park

Putting them to bed

LANGUAGE SPOKEN IN THE FAMILY

Most of the families want to have a demipair because **they want their children to learn and practice a foreign language**. The language studied in most schools in Spain is English so there's a big demand of English speakers. In some schools they also learn French and German but not in many.

Families know that the aim of the programme for the Demipair is to learn and practice Spanish so they will make sure that there's a lot of time of speaking Spanish at home. It is normally arranged that the Au pair will speak English or another language with the kids and Spanish with the parents.

Families will be happy to have non-native English speakers as far as they have a good level of English, enough to speak to the children in English and help with English homework.

To ensure that the English level is good **we ask our interested Demipairs to take an English level test**. The written part is taken online and it might be possible that we ask for an oral interview over the phone. **The desired English level required for the program is B2**

How to book a Demipair programme

The process to arrange a Demi pair programme might take some months, it's important that the Demipair knows that **the programme is not assured** as it depends on finding a family who thinks the profile of the Demipair is good for them.

The placements are normally successful and it depends in part on the attitude of the Demipair (sending documents on time, being available for a Skype interview with the family,...). This is how the process works:

1.- Sending first documents and taking English level test

To apply for the programme we will first need:

- ✓ **Application form** (please see "annex")
- ✓ **"Dear family letter"**. This is a letter written by the Demipair (in Spanish or in English) in which he/she introduces his/herself (name, age, where from, about the family, hobbies/interests, education, likes and dislikes, work experience, childcare experience and why he/she wants to become an au pair, future plans, and sign off.
- ✓ **Demipair agreement** (please see "annex")
- ✓ **Photographs**: 2 smiling passport photographs plus a few photographs (with good quality) with some children he/she has looked after or family/friends (the more we have, the better)

- ✓ **Online English level test:** The written part of the test can be taken online in this link http://ihworld.com/online-test/level_test. It might be possible that we ask for a telephone interview to check the spoken level of English. Please ask the student to take the test right after we have received the application form.

2.- Confirmation of profile and sending rest of documents.

Once we confirm that the student has the profile and the English level to follow the programme, we will need to receive the rest of documents and providing all the documents are correct, will start looking for the most suitable family.

- ✓ **Two references**, one character reference and one childcare reference. These references should not be supplied by a member of his/her family but e.g. from a teacher, employer, somebody she or he has babysit for, etc. The references need to be written either in Spanish or in English..
- ✓ **A medical certificate** from a doctor.
- ✓ **Police report**

3.- Interview with the possible family.

Once we have an interested family we will send the details to the Demipair, if she likes the family profile we let the family know.

Normally the family wants to have a phone or Skype interview with the Demipair before making the final decision.

The school carries out a careful selection of host families to settle each Demipair with the most appropriate host family. Therefore there's a high success percentage, However if the student doesn't like the suggested family, he/she **will be entitled to refuse one Demi pair family**.

3.- Confirmation and start of the programme

Once a family has selected the Demi pair we will confirm it's very important that they get in touch as soon as possible. If the Demi pair has any question, it's the time to ask everything she wants.

IMPORTANT:

The programme **confirmed /proposed dates are always provisional**, Dempairs have to be flexible regarding the dates and length of stay as the family might need the Demipair to come earlier or leave later, so it's important that the Demipair has some flexibility, this way we will have a bigger range of options and will select the most suitable family for her.

In case we cannot find a suitable family, we will let you know 4 weeks before the planned starting date. **Please, do not buy any flight tickets before the process is finished and we have confirmed the placement.**

WHAT HAPPENS IF ONCE STARTED THE DEMI PAIR DOESN'T GET ON WELL WITH THE FAMILY?

We will have to know every detail to analyse why the programme is not working. In case we conclude it's because of the family, we will look for another family.

In the meantime accommodation (shared apartment self catering) will be covered for two weeks. If no families are available after two weeks, the student may choose to be refunded 50% of the Demipair placement fee and cancel the programme (getting the refund of the unused part) or paying the accommodation until another Demi pair family is found.

The programme includes one change of family if it's justified.

If we concluded it was because the Demi pair is not prepared for the programme we will cancel it with no refund.

Some tips for success

- ✓ **Have a clear idea of what the programme consists of:** Interested students have to understand that this is a very intense programme, which requires a lot of responsibility. They study a lot of hours and after they have to go home and have enough energy to play and look after children.
- ✓ **Attending the school activities may be difficult to Demipairs due to the intensity of the programme.** However, Demi pairs will be get in touch with other Demi pairs of the school so they can meet each other in their free time.
- ✓ **Being communicative and clear:** An important part of the success of the programme is that the communication between the family and the Demi pair is very good and that any worry is told and sorted out. Feeling like a family member is very important, the Spanish family might think the Au pair is not happy if she doesn't behave naturally like a member of the family.
- ✓ **Flexibility** is another key part. The Demi pair will have a timetable but it can change if the needs of the family change.
- ✓ Not choosing this programme just because they don't have to pay the accommodation and will get some pocket money but because they want to live the experience and like children.

Demipair agreement

1. I confirm that I have read all written materials provided by the school in my home country and that I fulfil all criteria to follow a Demi pair (select one) programme.
2. I understand that the Demi pair programme is a cultural exchange and not a contract of work. I am aware that being a Demi pair requires a high degree of both responsibility and flexibility and that I must take my duties seriously.
3. I confirm that I have answered all questions honestly and that all information in the application is true.
4. After confirmation of placement, I shall stay in touch with my host family and shall inform them of my travel arrangements. I agree not to travel to my host family until I have received an official confirmation of placement from the school.
5. I shall familiarize myself with all (if any) visa requirements. I shall obtain necessary documents (e.g. a valid passport) prior to departure and shall not enter my host country without a proper visa (if required).
6. I agree to cover all costs for language courses, travel to and from my host country (unless otherwise stated in the programme guidelines) and any debts incurred (e.g. telephone bills, etc).
7. I am familiar with and agree to abide by all programme guidelines and conditions, in particular those regarding: the number and distribution of working hours, demi pair duties, pocket money, free time, holidays, language courses, transportation costs, insurance and the termination of the Demi pair agreement.
8. Upon arrival in my host country or before, I shall discuss in detail with my host family the weekly or daily routine and my and their expectations of the Demi pair programme.
9. I shall carry out my childcare and light housekeeping duties with diligence. In addition to my Demi pair duties, I agree to keep my room clean and neat and to make a fair contribution to the cleanliness of the "common areas" of my host family's home.
10. I agree to abide by all house rules set by the host family (e.g. use of telephone and facilities within the home, daytime and overnight visitors, curfew, smoking, etc).
11. I shall seek the advice of the host family before administering any form of discipline on the children. Under no circumstances shall I hit the children or leave them alone.

12. I shall discuss with my host family any arrangements for holidays well in advance.
13. I shall make a concerted effort to experience the culture of my host country and to learn the language. I shall respect cultural differences and display tolerance towards others.
14. I realize that the success of my Demi pair stay depends largely on my own initiative. I shall try to integrate myself into family life and, should any problems arise, communicate openly with the family and actively seek a solution.
15. If I have any problems or questions, which cannot be discussed and resolved, with the host family, I shall contact the school for assistance.
16. I shall make every effort to resolve any differences with my host family. If no solution can be reached and I decide to leave the family, I agree to give advanced notice (in accordance with programme guidelines). During this time period, I shall perform my normal duties and receive room, board and pocket money. If I request to be placed with a new family, I realize this might take time and depending on the case extra expenses.
17. I understand that I shall be expelled from the programme and must return home if:
 - I fail to abide by this agreement and programme guidelines
 - I falsify any information in my application (e.g. regarding smoking, child care experience, health, etc)
 - I begin my Demi pair stay before receiving an official confirmation of placement from the school or a proper visa
 - I am responsible for repeated problems with several families
 - I disobey the laws of my host country.
18. I agree to leave my host country before my visa or residency permit expires (if applicable).
19. I shall not undertake any other paid employment and will perform only those tasks related to the Demi pair programme.
20. Should I decide to cancel my application, I shall inform the school at once.
21. I shall notify the school immediately if there are any changes to the information included in my application.

Date and signature

Application form

Name:

Postal address:

Postcode:

Date of Birth:

Passport Number:

Sex:

Country:

City and Country of birth:

Expiry date:

CONTACT INFORMATION (where you can be contacted by a prospective family).

Home number:

Best time to call:

Mobile number:

Best time to call:

Skype:

E-mail:

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name:

Phone:

Email address:

AVAILABILITY

Earliest date to start:

Length of stay wished(max.12 months):

EDUCATION

Are you a student? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, what do you study?

Have you completed the minimum education required in your country? Yes ☐ No ☐

Details of your last studies.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Current Occupation:

Previous occupation if unemployed:

Give a brief summary of all the jobs that you have held with dates of employment and an explanation of your duties:

Job title - Employer

Dates

Duties

LANGUAGES

What's your native language?

What's your level of Spanish? ☐ A1 ☐ A2 ☐ B1 ☐ B2 ☐ C1 ☐ C2

What's your level of English? ☐ A1 ☐ A2 ☐ B1 ☐ B2 ☐ C1 ☐ C2

What other languages do you speak and on what level?

Language: Level: ☐ A1 ☐ A2 ☐ B1 ☐ B2 ☐ C1 ☐ C2

Language: Level: ☐ A1 ☐ A2 ☐ B1 ☐ B2 ☐ C1 ☐ C2

Language: Level: ☐ A1 ☐ A2 ☐ B1 ☐ B2 ☐ C1 ☐ C2

ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

Does your family know of and support your decision to be a Demipair? Yes ☐ No ☐

If anybody does not, who does not and why?

How many brothers/sisters do you have?

Ages of your brothers/sisters:

What is your brother/sister's occupation?

What is your parent's occupation?

Do you get on well with them? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you currently have a serious romantic relationship? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, have you discussed your decision to be a Demipair and do you have his/her support?

What is your religion?

Do you regularly attend religious services? Yes ☐ No ☐

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

☐ Dance

☐ Computers

☐ Reading

☐ Cooking

☐ Artwork

☐ Running

☐ Cycling

☐ Photography

☐ Swimming

☐ Skiing

☐ Musical instruments

☐ Other

☐ Riding

☐ Tennis

☐ Arts and crafts

☐ Gymnastics

How do you spend your evening free time?

Are you a good swimmer? Yes ☐ No ☐ details

Do you have any special talents or skills which may be useful when caring for and entertaining children e.g.: first aid, life saving?

DRIVING EXPERIENCE

Do you hold a FULL driving licence?

Date passed:

How often do you drive per week?

Have you ever had a car accident? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please give details?

How do you feel: are you able to drive in Spain?

☐ No

☐ Yes, I am able to drive a car in Spain

☐ Yes, but I would be happy to take some lessons to practice.

INFORMATION ABOUT SMOKING

Do you smoke cigarettes? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, how many cigarettes do you smoke per day?

NO SMOKING DECLARATION. Read this if you answered YES to the question above.

Today the vast majority of families have strong views on smoking. If you do smoke, but agree not to in the home of your host family or when responsible for the children, then tick yes below. Yes ☐ No ☐

BEING A DEMIPAIR

In addition to taking care of children, please rate your top five reasons for wanting to be a Demipair, with ONE being the most important reason, and FIVE being the least important reason.

"I would like to become a Demipair because it will give me the opportunity to..."

- 1.-
- 2.-
- 3.-
- 4.-
- 5.-

DEMIPAIR DUTIES

An Dermi Pair mostly has to do light housework next to childcare duties.

Light housework means: dusting, washing up, ironing (usually children's clothes), do the laundry, and keep the house generally tidy.

Are you willing to do this housework?

Do you like cooking?

If you don't adore for it, are you willing to make light meals, sandwiches for children?

EXPERIENCE AND PREFERENCES – Please tick all appropriate boxes

Age group	Experience with this age group	Willing to care for this age group
0-3 months	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
3 months – 2 years	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2-6 years	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
6+ years	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2 or more children at the same time	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Children with disabilities	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Provide details of any experience you have caring for children with mental, physical or learning disabilities		

If you have childcare experience with children under the age of 2 years please indicate whether you have experience in the following activities. **Do you know how to...**

Prepare a baby's bottle?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Change a nappy?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Feed a baby with bottle?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Burp a baby?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Feed a baby with a spoon?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Bath an infant (0-12 months old)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Bath a toddler (13-24 months old)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Put a baby to bed?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

MORE INFORMATION TO YOUR FUTURE DEMIPAIR FAMILY

What do you think what kind of person are you?

Are you vegetarian? Yes ☐ No ☐

Have you ever been convicted of or charged with a criminal offence? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, give details:

Do you have any allergies or feats of household pets? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, give details

Do you have any food allergies? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, give details

Do you have any special diet? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, give details

ABOUT YOUR WISHES

Are you willing to live with a family who has or lives with:

☐ Cat(s) ☐ Dog(s) ☐ Bird(s) ☐ Small household pet(s)

Are you willing to live with a family who has:

☐ Any kind of religion

If not, please give details:

Are you happy to live with a family who comes from different ethnic origin: Yes ☐ No ☐

Details

ABOUT YOU AND THE PROGRAM

Do you think you are responsible enough to take part in this type of program? Why?

What would you do if you had a communication problem with the family?

I confirm that I have answered all questions honestly and that all information in my application is true.

Date:

Sign:

Please note! This reference must be completed either in Spanish or in English. Failing this, a translation must be attached.

Reference form

NAME OF THE APPLICANT:

In what capacity do you know the applicant?

How long for and how long ago did the applicant look after your children?

Did she look part-time, full-time, or occasionally, after your children?

What are the ages, sex and number of children the applicant looked after?

Did he/she perform these duties satisfactory?

Did the applicant live with your family?

What duties did the applicant perform in your home? Did he/she help with any housework, ironing, cooking, vacuuming, etc.?

How did the applicant get on with your children? Please take into account the following aspects: understanding the children, affection, maturity, responsibility, communication with parents and other adults.

Name of referee:

Email:

Telephone:

Date:

Signature:

Health information

Part 1 (part 1 to be completed by the applicant)

Name of applicant:

Name of doctor:

Birth date:

Height:

Weight:

Tick the appropriate box if you are presently suffering from or have ever had:

Tuberculosis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diabetes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asma	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anemia	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bulimia	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eye problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dizziness/fainting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kidney disease	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arthritis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heart disease	<input type="checkbox"/>	Migraine/headaches	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ulcers	<input type="checkbox"/>	Epilepsy/convulsions	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Anorexia	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hepatitis A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/>			

If you have ticked any of the above, please give details including dates:

Have you ever received counselling and/or medication for any nervous or emotional problems, or for an eating disorder? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please give details including dates

Have you ever undergone surgery or been hospitalized? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please give details and dates

Do you suffer from any allergies? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please give details

Do you have any chronic or recurring illness? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you carry an infectious disease such as Hepatitis B or the HIV virus? Yes ☐ No ☐

Are you currently taking any medication: Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes to any of the above please give details

I hereby certify that all information given is correct, and that withholding or falsifying any information may result in me being withdrawn from the programme.

Date

Signature of applicant

Medical certificate, Part 2 (to be completed by a Medical Doctor)

As an au pair the applicant will be living with and will be responsible for young children in a foreign country. It is therefore important that we are advised of any physical or mental health problems that may have a bearing on the applicant's ability to participate.

- ✓ Please review the information provided in Part 1 and give your opinion of the applicant's general state of health: excellent ☐ good ☐ poor ☐
- ✓ How long have you known the applicant?
- ✓ Is the applicant currently taking any medication? Please specify:
- ✓ Does the applicant have any infectious disease or suffer from any chronic illness?
- ✓ Has the applicant ever received treatment for nervous or emotional problems?

I hereby confirm that (please add the applicants name) is in good physical and mental health that allows him/her to work with children in a foreign country.

Date, Location

Doctor's signature and stamp