**Information sheet**

Department of Geography, Environment and Development Studies

BIRKBECK

University of London

Malet Street,

London WC1E 7HX

020 7631 6497

**Title of Study: Au Pairing After the Au Pair Scheme**

*Name of researcher: Rosie Cox* [*r.cox@bbk.ac.uk*](mailto:r.cox@bbk.ac.uk) *and Nicole Busch* [*nl.busch@bbk.ac.uk*](mailto:nl.busch@bbk.ac.uk)

This study has been funded by the Economic and Social Research Council to explore the effects of the ending of the Au Pair Visa in 2008. We would like to hear your views about the effects of this change and what has been happening to au pairing in the UK since the visa was abolished.

If you agree to participate you will agree a convenient time and place for me to interview you for about an hour. You are free to stop the interview and withdraw at any time.

The interview will be recorded but you may ask for this to stop at any time. All information will be anonymised.

The analysis of our interview will be used in publications arising from this research such as academic journal articles, a book and a report to the funding body. You will not be identifiable in the write up or any publication which might ensue unless you ask to be.

**Consent form**

**Title of Study: Au Pairing After the Au Pair Scheme**

*Name of researcher Rosie Cox and Nicole Busch*

I have been informed about the nature of this study and willingly consent to take part in it.

I understand that the content of the interview will be anonymous (delete if not applicable).

I understand that I may withdraw from the study at any time.

I am over 16 years of age.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*There should be two signed copies, one for participant, one for researcher.*

# Interviews with au pairs

**1) Can you tell me a bit about yourself and where you are from?**

Possible prompts:

* How old are you?
* What is your nationality?
* Did you live with your parents/guardians in your country of origin?
* Did you finish high school / do any further education?
* Did you do any other training, including childcare qualifications?
* Did you have younger brothers and sisters or other relatives you looked after?
* Did you have other experience of childcare?
* What is your job title in the UK? Au pair? Au pair/nanny? Other?
* Where do you live in the UK? With employers or elsewhere?

**2) Can you tell me a bit about how you came to be an au pair?**

Possible prompts:

* What were you doing before you came to the UK and how did you decide to come here?
* Where in the UK do you live?
* Did it matter to you where in the UK you found an au pair position?
* Did you particularly want to come to the UK? If so, why? Would any English speaking country have done just as well?
* When did you arrive in the UK?
* Are you planning to go home? If so, when? If not, why not
* How did you get to the UK – eg coach, plane etc
* Would you mind telling me what your immigration status is?
* Did immigration restrictions/the lifting of restrictions influence your decision?
* Did you have a job organised before you arrived in the UK? If so, how did you organise this job? If not, how did you organise work after arriving in theUK?

**3) Can I ask you a bit about being an au pair?**

Possible prompts:

* What job title was advertised/discussed when you applied for the job?
* What are your duties in your current post?
* How many hours are you expected to work?
* Are you sometimes/ often asked to do extra work? If so, are you paid extra for this? How does it normally come about?
* Do you feel you are treated as an employee or part of the family in some way? Please elaborate.

**4) If you don’t mind, I’d like to ask you a bit about your pay and other conditions.**

Possible prompts:

How much are you paid?

Is food and accommodation included in your employment conditions?

If you live out, are food and drinks available? Are they adequate?

Do you have a formal contract? If you’ve had other jobs in the UK did you have contracts for them?

Do you know if you pay tax and/or National Insurance?

If so, does your employer deduct tax or do you pay tax yourself?

Do you receive sick pay, holiday pay?

Do you know if you would receive maternity pay if you became pregnant?

If the arrangement is formal, do you think this is the norm in the UK?

If the arrangement is informal, do you think this is the norm in the UK?

Do you feel valued in your job? Can you explain why?

**5) Are there any other issues around being an au pair that you would like to mention or discuss?**