

## Julia's Review: One year Star Exchange AuPair in China

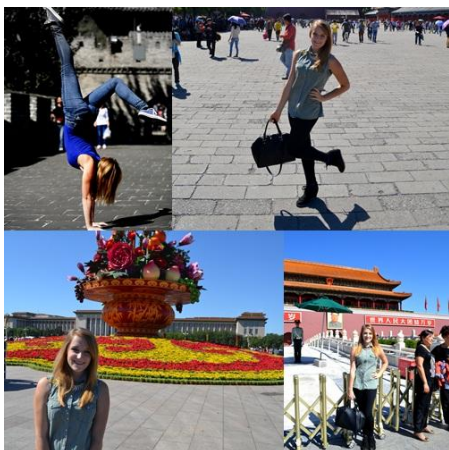


My name is Julia, I am 18 years old and my home country is Germany. After graduating from school I decided to go to China as an Au-Pair with Star Exchange.

Today, I am in China for already four month. I live in Beijing which is the capital of China. We live in a big apartment in the 18<sup>th</sup> floor close to the city center. During my time here I live with the parents, two household employees and two babies. Longzuh is a one year old girl and Qinqin is a two year old

boy. My main task is to care for the older boy and teach him English. The wish of the mother is that I am like an older sister for the two toddlers.

In the first few days I felt a little bit lost in Beijing. The city is very big and very modern. There are thousands of skyscrapers, cars and people. But after a few weeks I already felt at home inhere. The agency helped a lot to make me feel comfortable in my new family. Before I really started to work I visited a kind of Au-Pair-Training, which was organized by the agency. After this training I felt very good prepared for my year abroad.



When I was still at home I thought the biggest problem would be the very foreign language, but it wasn't. In the beginning we had to deal with several bureaucratic necessities, like for example extending my visa. The people from the agency were very helpful as they translated everything for me into German (my mother tongue). At home it was possible to speak English with the parents.

However I'm learning Chinese in daily life, when I am with the kids and the family. In my opinion that is the best way to learn a new language. But additionally I visit the University three times a week. That's also very good, as I can learn some

grammar basics, phrases and new words. But the best thing is that I meet people from many different countries. I have made many friends from different countries like for example Germany, France, Laos, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, Costa Rica, and England.

My host family gives me the opportunity to visit many places in Beijing and also different cities. At the moment I live for a few weeks in Shenzhen, in the South of China. I'm staying here in the grandparents' apartment, which is very close to the sea. We also planned some trips to Hong Kong and Shanghai next year.

In the end of July I will come back to Germany and my host family plans to fly with me and stay in my



country for 2 weeks. They want to show their kids the way I live.

I have a wonderful time here and I would recommend it to everyone who plans to stay a year in a foreign country. In my opinion China is the best choice, as all the people here are very polite, open minded and helpful. I enjoy every day here and I can already do some basic communication in Chinese. But I didn't only learn the language, I already learned a lot for my life! I saw many beautiful places together with my host family and together with some friends.

I really want to thank the agency for the support so far. They have chosen a perfect matching family for me and it makes me feel good to know that I can always call them if a problem occurs.