



Immigration News Highlights

2022-20, 17 May 2022



The KPMG team regularly monitors recent developments across the globe in the immigration space and publishes them as Immigration News Highlights. Please find the key developments that occurred over the last week enumerated below.



Argentina

[Argentina hoping to entice remote workers with new visa](#)

The Argentinian government announced the launch of a remote worker visa for qualifying foreign nationals. The visa will allow foreign nationals to stay and work remotely in the country for up to six months. The visa can further be extended for an additional six months. [Read more.](#)

Canada

[Proof of funds – Skilled immigrants \(Express Entry\)](#)

The Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) increased the proof of fund requirement for single express entry applications from CAD 13,213 to CAD 13,310. Applicants are required to update their profile, if needed, by 8 June 2022. [Read more.](#)

United States

[Visa Bulletin for June 2022](#)

India's EB-2 Final Action Date advanced by one year based on the State Department's June Visa Bulletin. However, priority date cutoffs remained the same for EB-1 and EB-3 categories. [Read more.](#)

United States

[Amended Order: Requirement for Proof of Negative COVID-19 Test Result or Recovery from COVID-19 for All Airline Passengers Arriving into the United States](#)

The Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) extended the COVID-19 testing exemption for certain travelers departing from Shanghai, China. The exemption was extended to US citizens, US nationals, lawful permanent residents, non-citizens with a valid US immigrant visa, and non-citizen immigrant who are traveling with a US citizen or a lawful permanent resident and hold valid travel documents to enter the US. [Read more.](#)

United States

[DHS and DOL Announce Availability of Additional H-2B Visas for Second Half of Fiscal Year](#)

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Labor (DOL) announced the availability of additional 35,000 H-2-B temporary nonagricultural worker visas for the second half of the FY 22. These visas are available for the US employer to employ additional workers on or after 1 April 2022 through 30 September 2022. Further, these additional visas aim to meet the demand for seasonal workers considering the labor shortage in the country. [Read more.](#)



Cambodia

[Cambodia exempts visa for Sri Lanka, Georgia officials](#)

Cambodia signed an agreement to allow visa-free arrival for diplomatic and official passport holders from Sri Lanka and Georgia. The measure aims at strengthening bilateral cooperation between the regions. [Read more](#)

Hong Kong

[Macau to ease some COVID-19 restrictions for arrivals from Hong Kong](#)

From 16 May 2022, travelers coming from Hong Kong to Macau are required to observe a 14-day post-arrival hotel quarantine followed by a self-monitoring period for seven days. Further, all arrivals are still required to take COVID-19 tests on days 2, 4, and 6 during their self-monitoring period. [Read more](#)

India

[Indians Will Be Able to Apply Online for Schengen Visas After 2026](#)

Indian passport holders will be able to obtain a Schengen visa online from 2026. The European Commission plans to digitize the procedures for obtaining a Schengen visa using a web-based EU visa application platform. [Read more](#)

Israel

[Entry to Israel: Non-Israeli Citizens](#)

The government of Israel lifted pre-entry COVID-19 testing requirements for all travelers except the holders of B-2 visitor visas who will be required to present a negative PCT test taken within 72 hours before arrival, or a negative antigen test taken within 24 hours of arrival. [Read more](#)

Japan

[Japan to test accepting tourists from Singapore, Thailand and more](#)

The Japanese government will allow fully vaccinated travelers from Singapore and Thailand to enter the country as a part of a trial project before easing border control measures from June. [Read more](#)

Kuwait

[After 2-year hiatus, Kuwait resumes issuance of visit visas to expat families](#)

On 8 May 2022, the Residence Affairs Department of Kuwait resumed the issuance of family visit visas for expats. The visas were previously suspended at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. [Read more](#)

New Zealand

[New Zealand border fully reopening by July 2022](#)

From 16 May 2022, visitors from the Pacific Island Forum countries excluding Australia can apply for visa for entering New Zealand. Further, from 4 July 2022, New Zealand will open applications for all work visa categories. All student and visitor visa categories will also reopen from 31 July 2022. [Read more](#)

New Zealand

[New employer accreditation and work visa](#)

The government of New Zealand published a policy to outline the job check application and labor market test portions of the Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV). From 20 June 2022, all accredited employers will be able to submit job check applications. Further, from 4 July 2022, all foreign nationals can submit their AEWV applications. [Read more](#)

Thailand

[Thailand's long-term 'high potential' resident visa fee to be halved to THB 50,000](#)

Thailand's cabinet cut the long-term resident (LTR) visa fee to THB 50,000 for 'high potential' foreigners who want to stay in the country for up to ten years. The measure will come into effect 90 days after it has been published in the Royal Gazette. [Read more](#)



Europe and Africa

Austria

[Austria Becomes the Latest EU Country to Lift All of Its COVID-19 Entry Rules](#)

Austria lifted all COVID-19 pre-entry requirements on 16 May 2022. Thus, all travelers regardless of their country and vaccination status are allowed to enter the country without presenting a valid vaccination, recovery, test certificate or pre-travel clearance form. [Read more](#)

Belarus

[Belarus extends visa-free regime for Lithuanians; politicians warn about threats](#)

Belarus's foreign ministry announced extension of the visa-free regime for Lithuanian and Latvian citizens until the end of 2022. The scheme, first introduced in mid-April, allows month-long visa-free travel for Lithuanian and Latvian citizens. [Read more](#)

Czech Republic

[Czechia Introduces New Financial Criteria for Long-Term Residence Permit Applicants](#)

Foreign nationals applying for a long-term residence in Czech Republic are now required to prove that they hold at least CZK 2,740 which is 15 times the average minimum wage in the country. The measure entered into force on 1 April 2022. [Read more](#)

Denmark

[Denmark could make change to permanent residency employment rule](#)

Denmark plans to include paid internships and trainee programs undertaken by non-EU nationals to meet the overall criteria for permanent residency. If approved, paid internships and trainee programs will count towards the work requirements for permanent residency applicants who have worked for at least three years and six months of the previous four years. [Read more](#)

European Union

[EU Accepts COVID Certificates of 3 More Third Countries as Equivalent to the EU Digital COVID Certificate](#)

The European Union recognized the digital COVID-19 certificates issued by Indonesia, Seychelles, and Vietnam as equivalent to EU COVID Certificates. Thus, holders of these certificates can enter the European Union under the same rules as those who hold EU Digital COVID-19 certificates. [Read more](#)

European Union

[European Travel Information and Authorization System \(ETIAS\)](#)

The European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) will be fully implemented by May 2023. Non-EU travelers who do need a visa to enter the Schengen Area will have to apply travel authorization through ETIAS before traveling after paying a fee of EUR 7. [Read more](#)

Spain

[Spain Prolongs Current COVID Entry Rules Until June 15](#)

The Spanish authorities prolonged the existing COVID-19 entry rules until 15 June 2022. Thus, all travelers coming from the Schengen Area are required to present either of a valid vaccination, recovery, or a test certificate before entering the country. Third-country travelers are allowed to travel Spain only if they hold a valid vaccination or recovery certificate. [Read more](#)

Spain

[Spain to Reopen Land Borders with Morocco on May 17](#)

On 17 May 2022, Spain reopened its land border of Ceuta and Melilla with Morocco. The borders were previously closed in August 2020. People crossing the border will be required to follow the health requirements established by the Ministry of Health. Further, cross-border workers will be allowed to enter Spain from 31 May 2022. [Read more](#)

Switzerland

[Switzerland Concludes Migration Partnership with Georgia](#)

Switzerland and Georgia signed a memorandum to establish a migration partnership between the two countries. The scope of the partnership is yet to be defined and will be discussed in future meetings between the countries. [Read more](#)

United Kingdom

[Bahrain and Saudi Arabia get UK electronic visa waiver status](#)

From 1 June 2022, travelers from Saudi Arabia and Bahrain are applicable for the electronic visa waiver status for UK travel for tourism, business, medical, or study purposes. These travelers can enter and stay in the UK for up to 6 months under the electronic visa waiver agreement. The measure intends to improve security checks and ease the process of obtaining a visa. [Read more](#)



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