



Immigration News Highlights

2022-26, 28 June 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. [Click here to find all issues of the Immigration News Highlights on the GMS Flash Alert: Immigration page.](#)

Americas

Canada

[Canada to extend work permits for some international graduates](#)

Canada has announced extension of post graduate work permits for international graduates between 20 September 2021 and 31 December 2022. These students will receive an additional open work permit of 18 months. [Read more.](#)

Ecuador

[Ecuador nationals can now travel to Armenia without visa](#)

Armenia approved a visa-free regime for Ecuadorian nationals. Ecuadorian nationals will be allowed to visit and stay in Armenia for a maximum of 180 days a year. [Read more.](#)

United States

[Returning to the United States on an Expired U.S. Passport](#)

The State Government's policy to allow some US citizens to return to the US on an expired US passport will end on 30 June 2022. The policy was adopted considering the processing delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more.](#)

Asia Pacific

China

[China halves quarantine time for overseas travelers](#)

China reduced the length of mandatory quarantine for inbound travelers from 21 days of quarantine and home monitoring to 7 days of quarantine and 3 days of home monitoring. [Read more](#)

Iran

[Iran ready to abolish visa for Russians: Foreign minister](#)

Iran proposed visa abolishment for Russians with the first step being a visa-free regime for business trips. [Read more](#)

Japan

[New handling regarding the period of validity of the certificate of eligibility](#)

The Japanese government has extended the validity of COVID-19 certificates of eligibility (COEs). COEs issued between 1 January 2020 and 30 April 2022 are valid till 31 October 2022; COEs issued between 1 May 2022 and

31 July 2022 are valid for six months from the date they were issued; and COEs issued on or after 1 August 2022 are valid for three months from the date of issue. [Read more](#)

Kuwait

[Family and Tourist visit visas suspended until further notice: Kuwait](#)

Kuwait's Ministry of Interior suspended the issue of family and tourist visas until further notice due to the introduction of a new mechanism by Residency Affairs department. [Read more](#)

Saudi Arabia

[Saudi Embassy updates travel procedures to Thailand](#)

The Saudi Arabian Embassy updated the traveling procedure for Saudi Citizens travelling to Thailand. The Embassy advised its citizens to immediately seek medical attention in case of development of certain systems within 21 days of arrival in Thailand. The measure was taken considering the monkeypox infections in Thailand. [Read more](#)

South Korea

[South Korea resumes visa-free travel for HK residents starting July 1](#)

From 1 July 2022, all travelers coming from Hong Kong will be able to enter Korea under a Visa Waiver Entry. The visa-free entry was previously suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, travelers are still needed to apply for a Korea Electronic Travel Authorization (K-ETA) before entering Korea. [Read more](#)

Thailand

[Thailand's entry requirements from 1 July 2022: Thailand Pass removed](#)

From 1 July 2022, all vaccinated travelers will no longer need to provide a negative COVID-19 test before entering Thailand while unvaccinated or partially vaccinated travelers must provide a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of entry in the country. Further, travelers will no longer be required to have a USD 10,000 health insurance before entering the country. [Read more](#)



Cyprus

[UK tourists to pay Cyprus visa waiver fee](#)

Tourists coming from third countries are expected to pay a visa waiver fee while entering Cyprus under the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS). ETIAS is expected to be implemented in May 2023 and will impose a visa-waiver fee of EUR 6. [Read more](#)

European Union

[EU & Indian Authorities Hold Talks to Streamline Visa Appointments for Indian Students](#)

India held discussions with leaders of the Czech Republic, Germany, and Poland to streamline the visa appointments for Indian students. Indian authorities sought expedition and more clarity on the visa process. [Read more](#)

European Union

[EU Council Approves Amendments to the EU Digital COVID Certificate & Its One-Year Extension](#)

The European Council gave a one-year extension to the European Union's Digital COVID Certificate scheme until 30 June 2023. The scheme will ensure that EU and third country travelers can continue to use their EU digital COVID certificate for travel within the Schengen Area. [Read more](#)

Finland

[Finland Abolishes All COVID-19 Travel Restrictions for Third Country Citizens](#)

From 30 June 2022, third country travelers will no longer be required to present either of a COVID-19 negative test result, vaccination certificate, or recovery certificate when entering Finland. The measure was undertaken considering the epidemiological situation in Finland. [Read more](#)

Ireland

[Minister English announces changes made to the employment permits system](#)

The Irish government updated its Critical Skills Occupations List and increased quotas for certain professions. New professions such as cardiac physiologists, psychologists, occupational therapists, etc. were added to the critical skills occupations list. [Read more](#)

Norway

[Norwegian Citizens Can Now Travel to Greece with Expired Passports](#)

Norwegian citizens whose passports have not yet been renewed after the pandemic can travel to Greece with expired passports until the end of 2022. Norwegian travelers above the age of 16 can enter Greece with a passport that has expired less than a year before the entry. [Read more](#)

Norway

[Norwegian Nationals Now Eligible to Travel to Turkey with Their ID Cards, Due to Passport Issuance Delays](#)

Norwegian citizens can enter Turkey using only their Identity Card until the end of 2022 due to passport issuance delays in Norway. Norwegian travelers must take a direct flight to Turkey and use an ID card valid for at least half a year more at the time of entry. [Read more](#)

Portugal

[Portugal's Parliament Refuses to End Golden Visa Programs](#)

The Parliament of Portugal refused proposal to end or expand its Golden Visa program. The Golden Visa allows citizens from third countries to hold a Spanish visa provided they meet specific requirements and make a specific amount of money investment. [Read more](#)

Spain

[British Students May Soon Be Able to Remain in Spain Post-Graduation](#)

British national studying in Spain may become eligible to work in Spain for a period of two years after completing their graduation. Spain proposed a new University System Law which will allow bachelor, master's, and doctorate students from third countries to stay in Spain after completing their studies. [Read more](#)

Sweden

[Residence permit for highly qualified persons to look for work or start a business](#)

The Swedish Government published the eligibility requirements for the new start-up work permit. Foreign nationals can apply for a start-up work permit to look for work or start a business in Sweden if they have obtained an advanced-level degree, have a capital of at least SEK 13,000 for each month the applicant plans to stay in Sweden, plan to seek employment or start a business in Sweden, hold a valid international health insurance, and live outside Sweden. The start-up visa will allow an applicant to stay in Sweden from three to nine months. However, family members and dependents are not eligible to stay with the applicant on the start-up visa. [Read more](#)



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