



Immigration News Highlights

2022-27, 7 July 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 reopen all PR programs under Express Entry from July 6](#)

Canada will resume Express Entry draws from 6 July 2022. The draws were previously halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more.](#)

United States

[Pending EO 12866 Regulatory Review](#)

The White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is currently reviewing the proposed rule to increase the USCIS fees. The fees can only be increased post the review from the OMB. [Read more.](#)

Asia Pacific

Indonesia

[Second home visa allows long-term stay for foreigners in Indonesia](#)

Indonesia will introduce a second home visa which will allow foreign nationals to secure a long-term stay in the country. The visa will allow foreign nationals to retire in Indonesia and those who are not qualified for other residential permits to stay for a long term in Indonesia. [Read more](#)

Indonesia

[Ukraine, Indonesia sign visa-free travel deal](#)

On 29 June 2022, Indonesia and Ukraine signed a visa agreement deal which will allow a 30-day visa-free travel for Ukrainians visiting Indonesia and a 30-day visa-free travel during a 60-day period for Indonesian citizens traveling to Ukraine. [Read more](#)

Kuwait

[Kuwait considers new system for issuing family, tourist visit visas](#)

Kuwait plans to issue a new system for issuance of entry visas for families and tourists. The process will be amended to introduce stricter mechanisms to ensure visitor's departure upon the visa expiry and preventing the renewal of the three-month visit. [Read more](#)

New Zealand

[Immigration fee and levy changes](#)

The Government of New Zealand will increase fees across most visa applications from 31 July 2022. The average increase is around NZD 81, an increase of 43% on an average. The largest increase will be seen in the residence class visa category. [Read more](#)

New Zealand

[New work visa applications open for offshore migrants](#)

On 4 July 2022, the final stage of the accredited employer policy opened which allows migrants offshore to apply for a work visa to come and work in Aotearoa. [Read more](#)

Oman

[Talented expats can soon apply for long-term residence visa in Oman](#)

Oman proposed including new target groups under the scope of the long-term residence visa. The proposal calls for inclusion of creators, innovators, programmers, and entrepreneurs under the visa. [Read more](#)

Saudi Arabia

[EU & Saudi Arabia Hold Discussions on Visa-Free Entry into Schengen Area for Saudis](#)

Authorities from the European Union and Saudi Arabia discussed, among others, easing the entry requirements for Saudi citizens in the Schengen Area through the implementation of a visa-free travel regime. [Read more](#)

Saudi Arabia

[Saudi Arabia: New rules for dependents' 'iqamas'](#)

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced that the wife on an expatriate with a different religion from her husband must obtain an independent residency permit. The expatriate must fill out the permit and pay the legally prescribed fee of SAR 500. [Read more](#)

Sri Lanka

[BOI launches long-term residence visa program for foreign investors](#)

Sri Lanka's investment promotion agency (BOI) launched the five-year residence visa program for investors, stakeholders, and BOI enterprises. The Visa aims to attract more investment into the country. [Read more](#)



Europe and Africa

Austria

[Austria to ease labor market access for third-country nationals](#)

Austria plans to ease access to country's labor market for third-country nationals by revamping the 'red-white-red-card' residence scheme. It plans to ease the criteria regarding the minimum wage and language skills. [Read more](#)

European Union

[EU Accepts COVID Certificates of Another 5 Countries as Equivalent to the EU Digital COVID Certificate](#)

The Commission of the European Union announced recognition of COVID-19 certificates issued by five third countries - Bahrain, Ecuador, the Republic of Korea, Kosovo, and Madagascar. Thus, COVID-19 certificates from these countries will be treated equal to the EU Digital COVID Certificate. [Read more](#)

Finland

[Finland Lifts COVID-19 Border Health Measures from Today](#)

Finland lifted the COVID-19 entry restrictions on 1 July 2022. Thus, travelers are no longer required to follow any additional entry requirements like presenting a proof of vaccination or COVID-19 test result while entering the country. Further, Finland abolished the onsite COVID-19 testing requirement. [Read more](#)

Finland

[After Over a Year Border Crossing Point Between Finland & Russia Reopens Today](#)

Finland and Russia opened the Imatra border crossing point on 1 July 2022. The border was previously closed to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus. [Read more](#)

France

[France Planning to Set Up a Border Health Pass Requirement, Leaked Draft Bill Reveals](#)

The French government plans to implement a scheme that will require all travelers to present a proof of vaccination, recovery, or a negative test result while entering France. The scheme will be implemented until March 2023. [Read more](#)

Greece

[Schengen Visa processing to happen within a fortnight: Greece Embassy in Delhi](#)

The Greek Embassy in Delhi stated that all visa applications will be processed in less than 15 working days. The processing was earlier delayed due to staffing shortages due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more](#)

Latvia

[Latvia Introduces Digital Nomad Visa Only for Citizens from Countries Part of OECD](#)

The government of Latvia published a legislation stating that the digital nomad visa will only be available for citizens from the OECD countries. The visa will allow a stay of one year and is renewable for one more year. [Read more](#)

Poland

[Belarus Lifts Visa Requirements for Polish Citizens](#)

Polish citizens can enter Belarus visa-free between 1 July 2022 and 1 December 2022. Thus, Polish citizens can enter Belarus without obtaining a special authorization previously required to enter the country. [Read more](#)

Portugal

[Portugal Now Permits Restriction-Free Entry to All Travelers](#)

From 1 July 2022, all travelers can enter Portugal without following any additional COVID-19 entry rules. Thus, travelers are no longer required to present either of a negative test, certificate of recovery, or a certificate of vaccination while entering Portugal. [Read more](#)

Spain

[Spain & New Zealand to Issue More Working Holiday Visas for Young People](#)

Spain and New Zealand decided to expand the Working Holiday Scheme which will allow more young people to stay and work in the other country for up to six months. The scheme was expanded to include 2,000 citizens of each country. [Read more](#)

Spain

[Spain Changes Passport Rules for Brits at Its Busiest Airports](#)

Citizens from the UK will be allowed to use the EU e-gates at some airports in Spain considering the staff shortages at these airports. Thus, UK citizens can use the automated border control to scan their passports and not wait at the non-EU passport queues. [Read more](#)



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