



Immigration News Highlights

2022-30, 26 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

Cayman Islands

[Gov't offering grant to cover students' visa costs](#)

The government of Cayman Island announced that the Ministry of Education will provide financial help with student visa expenses for domestic students planning to study in the US, Canada, and the UK. [Read more.](#)

United States

[USCIS Extends COVID-19-related Flexibilities](#)

The USCIS extended COVID-19 flexibilities through 23 October 2022 to assist applicants, petitioners, and requestors. [Read more.](#)

United States

[USCIS Updates Guidance for O-1 Petitions with a Focus on STEM Fields](#)

The USCIS updated its policy manual to provide further guidance on evidence that can be used to support a petition for an O-1A nonimmigrant of extraordinary ability with a focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. USCIS further clarified that receiving a competitive government grant for STEAM research can be a positive factor for demonstrating that a beneficiary is at the top of their field. [Read more.](#)

Asia Pacific

Bangladesh

[Bangladesh, Brazil sign visa exemption agreement](#)

Bangladesh and Brazil signed a visa exemption agreement on 18 July 2022. The agreement aims to improve bilateral relations among the countries. [Read more](#)

India

[India-Bangladesh discuss liberalization of visa procedures](#)

India and Bangladesh agreed for liberalization of visa procedures and easing of entry and exit norms. [Read more](#)

Indonesia

[Malaysia, Indonesia agree in principle to integrate SMO, OCS, says Immigration DG](#)

Malaysia and Indonesia agreed in principle to integrate the Maid Online System (SMO) and the One Channel System (OCS). Indonesian workers will still be able to travel to Malaysia until the integration has been finalized. [Read more](#)

Kuwait

[PCC verification will be done online](#)

Expatriates entering Kuwait on a new work or family visa will be required to complete a criminal record check (PCC) online. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Interior will introduce paperless system from September 2022. [Read more](#)

Kuwait

[Kuwait to set strict rules for resuming family visit visas](#)

The Kuwait government plans to issue stricter rules on expats applying for family visit visas on behalf of their family members. The expats would be responsible for ensuring that family members do not overstay on family visit visas and leave the country on or before expiry of such visa. [Read more](#)

New Zealand

[Changes to Investor Migrant Settings](#)

The New Zealand government will replace with Investor 1 and Investor 2 visas with the Active Investor Plus visa. From 27 July 2022, the New Zealand authorities will no longer accept Investor 1 and Investor 2 applications. [Read more](#)

Russia

[Russia holds talks on easing visa regime with 18 countries — Foreign Ministry](#)

Russia held talks with officials from various countries planning to ease the visa regime for international travelers. [Read more](#)



Europe and Africa

France

[New bilateral artist-in-residency programme between France and Singapore](#)

Singapore and France signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support the creation of bilateral Artist-in-Residency programme which will allow artists and arts professionals from both countries to conduct research and create artworks in the other country, for at least six weeks to up to six months. [Read more](#)

Ghana

[Ghana Missions to Roll-Out Improved E-Visa Stickers to Non-Ghanaians](#)

Ghana will begin issuing the new improved security electronic visa to non-Ghanaians visiting the country. The E-visa stickers will replace the old visas that were issued a writing and embedded with a stamp. [Read more](#)

Portugal

[Portugal Approves New Legislation Aiming Regulated Immigration](#)

The government of Portugal approved a new legal regime for entry, stay, exit, and deportation of foreigners. Under the new regime, the issuing of residence and temporary stay visas to nationals of a from the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) Agreement isn't dependent on a prior opinion from the Foreigners and Borders Service (SEF). [Read more](#)

Malta

[Malta's Embassy in Libya to Start Accepting Schengen Visa Applications from July 24](#)

Malta's Embassy in Libya will start accepting visa applications from 24 July 2022. The applicants can apply for tourist, medical, business, and education visas. [Read more](#)

Spain

[Spain May Require Travelers to Show They Have at Least £750 to Cover Holidays](#)

The Spanish authorities plans to introduce the requirement for travelers to show they have enough funds to cover their trips at the rate of EUR 100 or GBP 85 per day. The travelers will also be required to show return and onward ticket along with evidence of accommodation. [Read more](#)

South Africa

[Temporary measures in respect of foreign nationals considering a backlog being experienced in processing outcomes on waiver applications and visa applications](#)

The government of South Africa granted an extension for entry visa exempt foreign nationals until 30 September 2022. The extension was provided to entry visa exempt foreign nationals who have a pending long-term visa application. [Read more](#)

Ukraine

[Ukraine, Guatemala to sign visa-free deal](#)

Ukraine and Guatemala signed a draft agreement for creation of a visa-free travel agreement between the countries. The agreement will allow citizens of both countries to visit the other country for up to 90 days within 180 days. [Read more](#)



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