



Immigration News Highlights

2023-07, 14 February 2023



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](#)

[Asia Pacific](#)

[Europe and Africa](#)



Americas

Canada

IRCC expands digital tools to provide better information to applicants

The government of Canada announced the extension of their online application status tracker. Express Entry applicants can now track the status of their applications across four categories of permanent citizenship, including the Canadian Experience Class, the Federal Skilled Worker Program, the Federal Skilled Trades Program and the Provincial Nominee Program.

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Canada

Canada to reduce work experience requirements for caregivers and provide pathways to permanent residence

The government of Canada has reduced the amount of Canadian work experience required in order to qualify for permanent residence from 24 months to 12 months. Slots under existing caregiver pathways have also been reserved for caregivers with prior work experience in Canada under a previous work permit. The changes will be applicable from April 2023.

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United States

[State department plans pilot for domestic visa renewal](#)

The US State Department announced a pilot program to be launched in late 2023, which will offer H-1B special occupation worker visa holders and other temporary visa holders the option to renew their visa in the United States, instead of travelling abroad for the same. The measure is being taken to ease the long wait times for applicants and backlog burden on visa officials and authorities.

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United States

[Updated processing times for PERM applications published](#)

The US Labour Department published updated processing times for Permanent Labour Certification (PERM) applications belonging to the H-2A, H-2B, and CW-1 categories.

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Asia Pacific

India

[Indians can now apply for Schengen visas in new center opened in Lucknow](#)

A new visa center has been launched by VFS Global in Lucknow, which will be open to process joint Schengen visa applications from Indian nationals.

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Singapore

[Returning Singaporean nationals to submit health declarations](#)

The government of Singapore announced the requirement for returning Singaporean nationals to submit a health declaration on the SG Arrival Card system before entering the country. Foreign travelers transiting through the country and Singaporean residents entering the country through land checkpoints will be exempted from the requirement.

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South Korea

[South Korea lifts visa curbs on Chinese travelers](#)

Seoul officials have announced the resumption of issuing short term visas to travelers from China. The move was introduced in response to China improving their control over the COVID 19 situation in the nation.

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Taiwan

[Taiwan to allow individual visitors from Hong Kong, Macau next week](#)

The government of Taiwan announced the reopening of national borders to individual travelers from Hong Kong and Macau. Citizens from these regions can now apply for a visitor visa from 20 February 2023, as the government scrapped COVID related entry restrictions imposed previously.

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Europe and Africa

Denmark

Denmark to put on hold late post-Brexit residency applications of Britons

The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration (SIRI) confirmed that authorities have decided to put a hold on new residence applications submitted beyond the deadline under the Withdrawal Agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom. The deadline was 31 December 2021; however, authorities shall not be rejecting applications without a valid reason for missing the deadline.

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European Union

EU soon to no longer stamp passports of third-country nationals entering Schengen

Third country nationals who can enter the Schengen area without a visa, or on a short-term visa will no longer be required to present their passports for stamping upon entry and during exit from the bloc. Instead, their transit will automatically be recorded through an automated system expected to be launched later this year, called the Entry-Exit System.

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Finland

Finland opens its embassy in Qatar

The Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the opening of a new embassy in Doha, the capital city of Qatar. The embassy has been operational since 5 February 2023.

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Israel

Israel now issuing digital version of B-1 work visa

Israeli authorities announced the introduction of a digital B-1 work visa for eligible foreign nationals. Holders of a valid B-1 work visa will be issued a digital multi-entry visa with a longer validity than before. The digitalized process will not be available for dependents requiring the B-1 visitor visa.

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Spain

Applications for Spain's digital nomad visa are now open

Spanish authorities have confirmed the opening of applications for digital nomad visas. Applicants will be required to have a minimum monthly balance between EUR 2,000 and EUR 3,000 in order to be eligible for the visa.

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