



Immigration News Highlights

2023-13, 28 March 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](#)

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Americas

Canada

NEXUS Enrollment Centers to reopen in Canada

Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) in collaboration with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced the reopening of eight NEXUS enrollment centers in Canada. Applicants under the NEXUS program can appear for their interviews at the international airports in Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg. A NEXUS card allows the holder to significantly reduce their wait times at designated ports of entry.

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United States

H-1B initial electronic registration selection process completed

The USCIS announced the completion of the registration period for the H1-B visa lottery. The registrations have exceeded the quota set for the electronic registration period. Applicants can check the status of their application online, where status will be displayed as 'Selected', 'Submitted' or 'Denied' according to the selection.

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United States

[USCIS form and policy updates for applying for naturalization based on military service](#)

The USCIS released an updated guidance regarding the revision of Form N-426, Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service. According to the revision, individuals who have previously served in the military applying for naturalization under INA 328 or 329 would have to submit a copy of their discharge document with their application, instead of Form N-426.

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United States

[USCIS announces end of COVID-related flexibilities](#)

The USCIS brought an end to several flexibilities which were introduced to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Individuals will be required to respond to USCIS requests dated after 23 March 2023 asking for evidence, intent to deny, intent to revoke, intent to rescind, etc.

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United States

[People with tourist or business visa in US can apply for jobs](#)

US authorities will now be allowing foreign visitors on tourist or business visas to apply for jobs and attend interviews for the same. The B-1 and B-2 visa categories will be covered under this new initiative. The measure was taken in response to multiple layoffs by US companies in the past months.

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United States

[US plans to resume domestic visa renewals for IT workers](#)

The US plans to resume the domestic visa renewal process for certain visa categories, including the H and L visas. Currently, the visa holders are required to leave the country for the renewal process.

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United States

[April Visa Bulletin released](#)

The USCIS released the April Visa Bulletin. It showed retrogression for India EB-2 and EB-2 for all other countries, whereas EB-3 for China showed advancement. Employment based filings will be processed according to the Final Action Dates chart.

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Malaysia

[New adjustments to Chinese visa and entry policies](#)

Malaysian authorities released a notice clarifying newly introduced adjustments to entry rules for Malaysian citizens with a Chinese visa. Holders of visas issued before 28 March 2020 will be permitted to enter China. Applications for all visa categories are now open.

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Saudi Arabia

[Expats can now register newborns digitally](#)

The Saudi Arabian authorities will now be allowing expiates to digitally register their newborn babies through the Absher platform. Through this platform, expiates can also request for the birth certificates to be delivered to their residential addresses.

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Europe and Africa

Croatia

[Croatia to abolish internal air border checks](#)

Croatian authorities have abolished all border checks, effective from 26 March 2023. The measure has been facilitated as a result of the country successfully joining the Schengen area. Document checks will no longer be necessary at airports in the country, and changes have been made to reflect the new rules accordingly.

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Denmark

[Denmark introduces new fee for repeated citizenship applications](#)

The government of Denmark will now be levying a new fee on individuals submitting repeated applications for citizenship. Earlier, an applicant had to pay the initial fee of EUR537, and was charged no additional fees for re-application. The measure has been introduced to reduce the standard processing time for naturalization cases by eliminating multiple repeated applications.

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Denmark

[New rules for residence permits issued for work & study purposes to become effective from April](#)

The Danish government has introduced new rules for those who have been issued residence permits for the purpose of work and studies. The changes include the Pay Limit scheme and the supplementary pay limit track under the Fast Track scheme, which brings the total annual salary of an individual to a minimum of EUR50,222.

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Norway

Norway introduces tuition fees for international students

The government of Norway announced the introduction of a tuition fee to be levied on all new incoming international students from countries lying outside the European Economic Area and Switzerland. The amount of the fees shall be set individually by each educational institution.

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United Kingdom

COVID-19 related entry requirements to be relaxed for travelers from China

The British Home Office announced the lifting of COVID-19 testing requirements and the need for presenting proof of a negative PCR test for arrivals from China, Hong Kong and Macau from 4 April 2023. However, the rules may differ for those travelling to Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales.

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