



Immigration News Highlights

2023-18, 2 May 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](#)

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Americas

Canada

[IRCC issues another 3,500 invitations in latest Express Entry draw](#)

The Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) announced the issuance of 3500 invitations for individuals to apply for an all-program draw as a part of the Express Entry draw for 2023. Applicants from the Canadian Experience Class (CEC), the Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP) and the Federal Skilled Trades Program (FSTP) shall be considered for this draw.

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Asia Pacific

Australia

[Australia to overhaul immigration system, smooth entry for skilled workers](#)

The Australian government plans to overhaul the national immigration system in order to deal with the skills shortage being faced by the country. The points test will be modified to identify applicants with relevant skills. The minimum wage threshold for temporary skilled workers will also be increased from the current level of AUD53,900 to AUD70,000.



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China

[China to replace PCR test requirement with antigen test for inbound travelers](#)

The Chinese authorities will no longer require incoming foreign travelers to show proof of negative COVID-19 antigen tests on arrival in the country. The PCR test requirement was abolished on 29 April 2023.

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India

[US is waiving in-person interviews for more Indian visa applicants](#)

The USCIS further expanded the visa interview requirement for some visa applicants with Indian nationality. Individuals with “clearance received” or “department authorization” on their previous passport applications will be allowed to avail the visa interview waiver option for their visa renewal applications.

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Indonesia

[Visa on arrival to Indonesia now available for Panama, Guatemala, and Macau Foreigners](#)

The government of Indonesia announced the facility of visa on arrival for foreign arrivals from Indonesia, Guatemala and Macau. These three countries have been added to the existing list of 92 countries under the visa on arrival facility. Travelers can either apply for the visa online, or in person upon arrival at any of the country’s airports or seaports.

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Saudi Arabia

[Saudis get green light to visit three Balkan countries without visa](#)

Saudi Arabian nationals will now be allowed to travel to three Balkan countries – Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro without obtaining a visa. In order to qualify for the visa-free travel in Montenegro, the traveler must be a part of a tourist group and should arrive on a direct flight originating from the Kingdom. Further, the individual should be able to provide proof of a return ticket and payment of accommodation in the country.

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Saudi Arabia

[Saudis no longer need Singapore visa](#)

Saudi Arabian travelers wishing to travel to Singapore will no longer be required to apply for a visa. The visa waiver will enter into effect 1 June 2023 onwards. Those wishing to visit the country will have to apply for a visa, unless they carry a diplomatic passport.

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Saudi Arabia

[Saudi Arabia introduces e-visa for Bangladesh](#)

The government of Saudi Arabia introduced an e-visa for Bangladeshi immigrants, eradicating the need for visa stickers for work, visits, and transits. The e-visa shall be available across all visa categories, and will reduce the cost and time required to obtain the visa.

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Singapore

High Commission of Malaysia issues notice for visa applicants

The High Commission of Malaysia in Singapore announced that it shall no longer accept direct submissions for visa application at the Commission. Foreign travelers requiring a Malaysian visa can apply for an e-visa (available for select countries) or can request for a Short Term Social Visit Pass at the Malaysian entry point.

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Europe and Africa

Angola, Congo

Congo, Angola scrap visa requirement for officials

The authorities of Congo and Angola have abolished visa requirements for holders of diplomatic or public passports for travelers from either country traveling to the other. The visa waiver was introduced to facilitate greater mobility between the countries.

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France

France opens visa center in Iraq's Mosul

French authorities announced the opening of a new visa facility in Mosul, Iraq. The move makes France the first country in the European Union to rebuild the facility and start offering visa services for Iraqi nationals living in the Nineveh Governorate.

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Germany

German authorities update visa fees

The government of Germany introduced updated visa fees for Indian applicants, that were applicable 26 April 2023 onwards. The Schengen visa fees for adults has been increased to INR7,200, and to INR3,600 for minors. The national visa fees has been set at INR6,800 for adults and INR3,400 for minors.

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Greece

Greece postpones decision to increase the minimum amount of investment for golden visas until 1 July 2023

Greek authorities announced their decision to postpone the implementation of the increased minimum investment threshold for the Greek Golden Visa Program to 1 July 2023. Till the given date, the existing investment threshold shall be applicable.

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Slovenia

Slovenia facilitates rules for obtaining a residence permit for non-EU nationals

The Slovenian government announced changes and updates to the Aliens Act, making it easier for non-EU nationals to obtain a residence permit in the country. The changes include expansion of access to the free Slovenian language and culture course for applicants. Family members of applicants will also be required to show proof of language only until A1 level, whereas applicants will be required to show proof of at least A2 level.

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