



Immigration News Highlights

2023-19, 9 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](#)

[Asia Pacific](#)

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Americas

Canada

British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and New Brunswick invite PNP candidates this week

Four Canadian provinces have invited candidates in the latest Provincial Nominee Programme (PNP) draw results. The PNP is the route for economic immigration to Canada. By the end of 2025, Canada will welcome 117,500 new permanent residents under PNP, according to the Immigration Levels Plan 2023–2025.

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Canada

IRCC updates express entry proof of funds requirement

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has updated the evidence of finances prerequisite for express entry candidates. The modification became official on April 25 and was announced on 2 May 2023, on the IRCC website. The quantity of proof of money is changed annually. The amount is calculated by IRCC using 50 percent of the low-income cutoff amounts.

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United States

Biden administration to end COVID-19 vaccination requirements for CMS-certified facilities and others

Biden-Harris administration has cancelled out the COVID-19 vaccination mandate for federal workers, federal contractors, foreign air travelers, head start instructors, and healthcare institutions with CMS certification.

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United States

ICE updates Form I-9 requirement flexibility to grant employers more time to comply with requirements

ICE has updated the guidance, according to which, employers who use virtual processes need to adhere to a set of rules when "normal operations" restart. Initially, this involved physically analyzing papers that had been remotely seen within three business days; however, ICE has now increased that window to 30 days from the day the interim measures cease, or until 30 August 2023.

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United States

State department releases FY 2024 diversity visa lottery results

The state department has released the results in its official diversity visa lottery website, which can be checked by the lottery applicants on May 6 2023, to find out if they have been selected to apply for a diversity visa. Lottery winners do not get direct communication from the State Department. Those who are chosen may apply for permanent residency during the fiscal year (2024), which starts on 1 October 2023.

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Asia Pacific

Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan seeks to introduce mutual visa-free regime with 26 countries

The ministry of culture and sports in Kazakhstan is in negotiations to establish a reciprocal visa-free policy with 26 nations, including Austria, Bahrain, San Marino, and Saudi Arabia. The ministry wants to eliminate the need for an invitation, extend the list of nations whose citizens may apply for an electronic visa to Kazakhstan, and streamline the process for United Arab Emirates citizens seeking visas.

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Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia scraps visa stickers, introduces e-visas in seven countries

The Saudi foreign ministry stated that electronic visas will take the place of visa stamps in seven nations. According to the ministry, the Kingdom's embassies in the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Egypt, Bangladesh, India, Philippines, and Indonesia began using e-visas with QR codes on 1 May 2023.

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United Arab Emirates

New 'Schengen-style' visa planned for GCC countries

GCC nations Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE have recently undertaken negotiations to introduce a system that will enable visitors to all six of them on a unified visa. When implemented, this approach aims to save travelers from having to submit numerous visa applications individually and encourage frictionless travel between GCC nations.

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United Arab Emirates

UAE Golden Visa: New platform offers long-term residency to investors for AED2 million

The investing platform Stake will offer golden visas to investors who make investments totaling at least AED2 million. Through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV) formed in the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), the Golden Visa opportunity will be made available. This is the first project that allows investors in Dubai to use a digital investment platform to get a Golden Visa.

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Europe and Africa

Denmark

Denmark to tighten citizenship rules once again

Denmark's authorities have announced new intentions to tighten citizenship laws, despite its existing strict naturalization criteria. Furthermore, the same said that the deadline extension also applies to Britons who have not yet made an application and that the authorities will begin processing outstanding applications that had previously been put on hold.

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Moldova

Citizens from EU and other states will work in Moldova without work permit

The Republic of Moldova will not be requiring a work permit for nationals of the 27 EU member states or other nations. The government aims to import labourers and the necessary skills for the national economy. The Minister of Economic Development and Digitalization announced the proposal during a news conference.

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Nigeria

Updated immigration application portal

The Nigerian government has improved its online immigration application system for passport, visa-on-arrival, and visa-on-arrival applications. Applications for visas for travel and business, visas on arrival, and new passports must be submitted through a new portal website starting on 7 May 2023.

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Slovenia

Slovenia working to introduce uniform work & residence permits for third country citizens

The Slovenian government is aiming to make it simpler for people from other countries to immigrate and live there by adopting universal work and residency permits, particularly for those who drive in international traffic. A week after the country published new amendments to the Aliens Act in the Official Gazette of Slovenia, removing various barriers to getting a residence permit for citizens of other countries, a fresh proposal for unified work and residence permits was made.

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United Kingdom

Innovator founder and scale-up visas endorsing bodies

Investors Limited, UK Endorsing Services, Innovator International, and the Global Entrepreneurs Programme will now be able to endorse foreign nationals. Endorsing bodies on the "Legacy Innovator Endorsing Bodies" list may issue further endorsements for Innovator Founder applications that they previously supported via the Innovator or Start-up visa pathways prior to April 13 2023.

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