



# Immigration News Highlights

2023-24, 13 June 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

#### Canada announces Verified Traveler programme

The Government of Canada has announced the launch of a new Verified Traveler programme, which will be applicable from 21 June 2023. The programme aims to increase the efficiency of the screening experience for travelers across Canada by replacing the existing Trusted Traveler Programme.

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### Canada

#### Eligible travelers from 13 more countries qualify for visa-free travel to Canada

The Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship of Canada announced the addition of 13 more countries to the electronic travel authorization (eTA) program. These travelers must either have a Canadian visa in the last 10 years or currently hold a valid United States non-immigrant visa.

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### United States

### [State Department provides guidance on visa issuance for international students](#)

The US State Department has made several changes with the intention of prioritizing and streamlining the visa application process for overseas students. The new approach also comprises giving students easier access to study abroad. The agency has increased the window for submitting visa applications from the previous 120-day restriction to a full year.

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## Asia Pacific

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### Australia

#### [Australia to overhaul immigration policy, joining race for talent](#)

The Government of Australia will change its immigration policy for the first time in ten years, with the first move expected to be adopted on 1 July 2023 securing greater compensation for recently arrived temporary visa holders. By doing so, Australia will enter the global battle for highly educated workers. The temporary skilled migration income threshold (TSMIT), which businesses are required to guarantee before the government approves a temporary skilled visa, is the first stage.

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### Kuwait

#### [Kuwait introduces new visa category for sports, cultural, and social activities](#)

The Government of Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, and Acting Minister of Defense has introduced a new type of entrance visa exclusively for those who take part in sports, cultural, or social events. Following this new provision, the General Directorate of Residence Affairs will grant the visa after receipt of an application from an approved social organization or association, a recognized sports club, or a cultural institution in the nation.

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### Saudi Arabia

#### [Saudi Arabia and Oman combined tourist visa announced](#)

Saudi Arabia and Oman have decided to launch a joint tourist visa to implement combined initiatives that aim to promote their tourism sectors. These initiatives include the launch of a unified tourist visa, the establishment of seasonal flights, and the formation of a joint travel calendar. The main goal is to enhance tourism and raise investment cooperation between the two countries.

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### Saudi Arabia

#### [Saudi Arabia announces new instant e-visa for UK, US, and Schengen visa holders](#)

The Government of Saudi Arabia announced that travelers who have valid visa in the United States, the United Kingdom, or Schengen area can now apply for an instant e-visa to visit Saudi Arabia. The visa is also available for permanent residents from Europe. Holders of permanent residency may also provide first-degree relatives with a visa-on-arrival at any airport, on land, or at sea.

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## Saudi Arabia

### Saudi Arabia launches 'Visiting investor' e-visa

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has launched an electronic business visitor visa called a "visiting investor." The new visa service, which the Ministry of overseas Affairs and the Ministry of economic jointly announced, intends to make it easier for overseas investors to visit Saudi Arabia and directly investigate the country's economic potential.

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## Europe and Africa

### Germany

#### Germany and Brazil sign declaration to boost skilled worker immigration

The German Minister of Labor and the Minister of Foreign Affairs signed a declaration of intent on their visit to Brazil, to simplify the structures for promoting the immigration of skilled workers from Brazil to Germany and vice versa. The German government's decision to visit Brazil and sign a letter of intent comes as the country faces manpower shortage across various industries.

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### Kenya

#### Kenya and Djibouti agree on a visa free regime to boost trade

Kenya and Djibouti will advocate for a visa-free system to promote trade and commerce. To increase investment, the two nations will also take advantage of and strengthen their current ties. The presidents of the two nations concurred on the formation of the Kenya-Djibouti Business Council, which would promote trade between them.

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### Spain

#### Spain to tighten golden visa rules for real estate investors

The officials in Spain are planning to tighten golden visas to foreign investors. It is considering ending its "golden visa" programs, which grants residency permits to foreigners who invest in real

estate worth at least US\$537,760. This has caused housing costs and evictions without producing new jobs.

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## United Kingdom

United Kingdom announces major visa change for visitors from UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, and Jordan

The Government of United Kingdom will waive its visa restrictions for nationals of GCC nations and provide them multiple entrance authorization for US\$12. GCC nationals formerly needed to apply for a US\$37 document for each unique visit. Instead, a two-year Electronic Travel Authorization will be made available to them for US\$12. The admission criteria for visitors from the Gulf and Jordanians will be the same as those for US and Australian nationals.

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