



# Immigration News Highlights

2023-27, 4 July 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 new immigration stream to prioritize health workers

The Government of Canada is inviting professionals in the healthcare industry, such as physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, physiotherapists, and optometrists, to apply for permanent residency. 500 Healthcare professionals are invited to apply in the first phase of category-based selection, which is currently available. 1,500 job applicants are being sought for a second round.

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### Canada

#### H-1B visa: Canada launches new bid to hire skilled tech workers from US

The Government of Canada announced that the new "H1-B specialty occupation visa holder work permit," which goes into effect on 16 July 2023, will allow accepted candidates to work for almost any business anywhere in Canada for up to three years. The right to work, study, and get temporary residence permits will be available to spouses and dependents.

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## Canada

### Minister Fraser launches Canada's first-ever Tech Talent Strategy at Collision 2023

The Government of Canada announced Canada's first-ever Tech Talent Strategy which includes the establishment of a free work permit application, the creation of an Innovation Stream under the International Mobility Programme with options such as employer-specific work permits for up to five years, promotion of digital nomads, express entry program etc.

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## Canada

### Open work permits now available for spouses and dependents

Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has announced that by the end of May, a temporary new public policy will be implemented for spouses and dependent children seeking under the Canada Family Class Sponsorship. They will be able to continue working in Canada because of this new legislation.

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## Canada

### Quebec targets 1,006 candidates with high French proficiency or a job offer in Canada immigration draw

Quebec Immigration has issued 1,006 invitations to apply for Canadian immigration using the Arrima Expression of Interest system. Two groups of applicants were the focus of the draw on 22 June 2023. First category included candidates with 626 points or more on Quebec's Expression of Interest and French proficiency, while second category included those seeking employment outside Montreal without a minimum score.

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## Canada

### Study authorization extended for work permit holders

The Ministry of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship of Canada has announced a temporary policy that eliminates the restriction on the length of study programs that temporary foreign employees may enroll in without a study permission. Foreign employees may previously work while they studied, but only in programs lasting six months or fewer. New 3-year temporary measure allows foreign workers to study full or part-time, without restrictions on program length.

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**Asia Pacific**

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## Bahrain

### Platinum residency permit holders will be allowed to own properties

The Government of Bahrain issued Edict No. 47 of 2023 which grants people who have resided in Bahrain for at least 15 years, have a good reputation, and have never been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving breach of honor or trust, even if they have been rehabilitated, an entrance visa and a platinum residency permit.

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## South Korea

### South Korea embassy announces new e-Group visa applications for tourists

The Government of Korea has launched the e-Group Visa for frequent travelers. Starting on 27 June 2023, this new visa option will be accessible to groups with three or more people, including ordinary tour groups, educational tour groups, and business incentive tour groups.

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## Taiwan

### Taiwan announces visa-free entry for Philippines nationals until July 2024

The Government of Taiwan has announced a one-year extension of visa-free travel for Filipino nationals, including those from Thailand and Brunei. The visa-free period, which was set to conclude on 31 July 2023 but has now been extended through 31 July 2024.

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## Europe and Africa

## Austria

### Austria to introduce EUR160 fee at Schattendorf border crossing with Hungary

The Austrian authorities will be charging EUR160 tax, EUR140 of which is refundable for the border crossing between the Austrian town of Schattendorf (Somfalva) and the Hungarian village of gfalva (Agendorf). Beginning on 3 July 2023, the border crossing will reopen after being shuttered since March, but this would require a permit.

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## Ireland

### Ireland suspends re-entry visa requirements for children under 16

The Irish Department of Justice announced that the demand for re-entry visas for individuals under the age of 16 has been removed. Children under the age of 16 who are resident in Ireland and who

desire to enter the country must be accompanied by a parent/legal guardian who must possess a current residency permit, even if the re-entry visa requirements have been suspended.

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## Lithuania

### Changes in national visa application process

The Government of Lithuania has announced that from 1 July 2023, the procedure for issuing national visas in Lithuania is changing. All requests for the issuance of national visas must be made using the Lithuanian Migration Information System (MIGRIS) on the website [www.migracija.lt](http://www.migracija.lt) as of 1 July 2023. Application submission using the Electronic Application Module (EPM) will no longer be available.

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