



# Immigration News Highlights

2023-29, 18 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 makes it easier for Hong Kongers to stay and work in Canada

The Government of Canada announced the elimination of the education requirement under the Canadian work experience stream (Stream B) of the Hong Kong permanent residence pathways from 15 August 2023 onwards. Applicants will not be required to present proof of education.

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### Canada

New arrangement expands work opportunities for Canadian and British youth

The Government of Canada announced the signing of Canada–United Kingdom (UK) Youth Mobility Arrangement, that would enable more Canadian and British youth benefit from reciprocal work opportunities in each other's nation for extended period.

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### United States

DHS to expand the STEM designated degree program list

The US Government's Department of Homeland Security will include eight new fields of study in its STEM Designated Degree Program List. They are Composite Materials Technician, Demography and Population Studies, Developmental and Adolescent Psychology, Geospatial Intelligence, Institutional Research, Landscape Architecture, and others.

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## United States

### USCIS Expands myProgress to Form I-765 and Form I-131

US Citizenship and Immigration Services announced that they are expanding myProgress (formerly known as personalized processing times) to Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, and Form I-131, Application for Travel Document.

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## Asia Pacific

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### China

#### Hainan allows visa-free entry for individual tourists from 59 countries

The Government of China announced that travelers from 59 countries can now visit Hainan directly from overseas, without a visa. These travelers may go from or through Hong Kong or any other place outside Mainland China.

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### Indonesia

#### Bali to impose US\$10 tourist e-tax from 2024 to preserve culture

The Government of Indonesia will impose US\$10 tax on tourists entering the Bali, to preserve its culture and raise funds. The tax must be paid digitally and will be applicable to international travelers arriving in Bali from abroad or other parts of Indonesia.

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### Taiwan

#### Visa-free EU travel to continue for Taiwanese

The Government of Taiwan announced that Taiwan's Schengen visa waivers would not be modified by the EU's new travel requirements, which will be implemented in 2024. Visa-exempt citizens going to 30 European nations are required to have travel approval under the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS).

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## Europe and Africa

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### Czech Republic

#### Czech Government greenlights residence-permit program for digital nomads

The Government of Czech Republic approved two new economic migration programs. The first one aims at providing residence permits to digital nomads while the second one allows 300 students from Indonesian polytechnic schools to work in the Czech Republic for two years.

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### European Union

#### EU clarifies that health information & biometrics won't be needed for ETIAS

The European Union has clarified for travelers from third countries under the Schengen Area visa-free entry regime that when the ETIAS travel approval prerequisite becomes effective in 2024, they won't be expected to submit health data or biometrics to acquire this authorization.

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### France

#### Indians studying Masters in France can now get five-year post study work visa

The Government of India announced that Indian students who are practicing a master's degree in France will be given a five-year long-term post-study visa compared to the existing two-year work visa.

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### Georgia

#### Visa-free travel agreement between Georgia and Armenia enters into force

The Governments of Armenia and Georgia have signed an agreement "On bilateral visa-free movement of citizens between the Republic of Georgia and the Republic of Armenia". This agreement is aimed at creating favorable conditions for the reciprocal movement of Georgian and Armenian citizens.

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### Ireland

#### Ireland and Cyprus will continue stamping passports even after entry/exit system becomes operational in EU

Ireland and Cyprus will continue stamping travelers' passports even after the Entry/Exit System (EES) becomes operational in the European Union as both the countries are not part of the Schengen Zone.

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## Poland

### Poland expands range of recognized documents for proving language knowledge

The Government of Poland has decided to make amendments to the qualification of language required for residency permits. This is aimed to make it easier for foreigners to obtain citizenship in Poland. Certificates issued by the European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages, and telc GmbH, WBT Weiterbildungs-Testsysteme GmbH are recognized by the Polish authorities.

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## Portugal

### Embassy of Portugal in Cabo Verde says Schengen visa appointments can now be made every two weeks

The Embassy of Portugal in Cabo Verde has announced that appointment slots of visas will be available every two weeks. This is to ensure more transparency for all visa applicants. Cabo Verdeans who wants to travel to Portugal for tourism purposes must apply for a Portugal Tourist Visa.

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## Portugal

### Bangladesh embassy in Portugal opens e-Passport facilities

The Ministry of Home Affairs of Bangladesh officially inaugurated the e-Passport facilities in Portugal. This is part of developing a 'Digital Bangladesh'. The government also plans to introduce e-Passport facilities in all Bangladeshi missions abroad.

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## Sweden

### Sweden to tighten immigration rules for foreign residents' family members

The Government of Sweden proposed to tighten the requirements for immigration for the family members of foreign residents. This is aimed to reduce the immigration into the country. The government has proposed to raise the age limit for rejecting a residence permit for foreign residents' family members from 18 to 21 years.

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