



Immigration News Highlights

2023-35, 29 August 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

[Canada plans revamp of student visa programme with 'Trusted Institution' tag](#)

The Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) announced that it intends to introduce a trusted institution framework to its student visa program by 2024. This new framework is part of a broader effort to modernize the International Student Program operated by the IRCC.

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United States

[USCIS updates voter registration guidance for naturalization ceremonies](#)

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services is revising its policy manual to offer more explicit guidance regarding access to voter registration during administrative naturalization ceremonies.

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United States

[USCIS updates policy guidance for the “sought to acquire” requirement under the Child Status Protection Act](#)

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services is revising the USCIS policy manual to provide a clear explanation of how it will implement the exception for extraordinary circumstances in relation to the "sought to acquire" condition under the Child Status Protection Act.

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Asia Pacific

China

[China extends tax breaks for foreign workers until 2027](#)

The government of China announced that it will continue offering beneficial tax policies to foreign individuals employed in China until the end of 2027. This decision is seen as a development for foreign companies facing difficulties in recruiting skilled professionals after the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Kuwait

[Kuwait to announce revised family visa regulations](#)

Kuwait's Ministry of Interior has announced plans to implement updated regulations for family visas before the end of the year. Family visas were halted more than a year ago in order to assess the visa issuance process and implement measures to prevent individuals from overstaying their permits. The new guidelines for family visas are expected to be released to the public in December 2023.

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Singapore

[New COMPASS framework launch draws near](#)

The Singapore Ministry of Manpower will implement a points-based Complementarity Assessment Framework (COMPASS) for new Employment Pass (EP) applications from 1 September 2023. The new framework will apply to EP renewals for passes expiring from 1 September 2024.

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Taiwan

[Visa for Chinese tour groups to be restarted](#)

The Taiwanese government announced that from 25 August 2023, individuals from China who reside or study outside of China, Hong Kong, or Macau will have the opportunity to apply for a tourist visit to Taiwan.

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Vietnam

Changes to e-Visa process

The government of Vietnam announced that individuals traveling to Vietnam can obtain an electronic visa upon arrival at over 50 entry points in the country. This modification allows all eligible foreign tourists to conveniently apply for e-visas when they arrive by air, land, or sea at any of the designated entry points in Vietnam .

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Europe and Africa

Czech Republic

Czechia launches new digital nomad programme for foreign highly skilled workers

The Government of Czech Republic announced its approval for a fresh program aimed at accommodating highly skilled foreign workers who are digital nomads. According to the ministry of industry and trade, individuals who work remotely can request a residency permit in the Czech Republic under the recently approved program. This permit will allow them to live in the country.

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Czech Republic

Czechia launches migration programme for Indonesian students wishing to work in the country

The Czech Republic's government has announced their approval of a new plan to encourage students from polytechnic universities in Indonesia to migrate to their country. This initiative aims to provide around 300 selected students with the opportunity to work in the Czech Republic for a period of two years.

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Finland

Finland becomes the world's first country to test digital travel documents

The government of Finland announced that Finns will have the privilege of being the initial group of people in the world to try out digital travel documents. This initiative aims to improve the passenger experience, reduce waiting times, and enhance overall efficiency at the border check.

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Georgia

New labour migration rules enter into force from 1 September 2023

The government of Georgia announced that from 1 September 2023, amendments to Georgia's labour migration rules enter into force. Approved in May 2023, the amendments are designed to affect the migration of labour to Georgia, by providing for, among other things, rules around intermediary companies and the establishment of a modernized migration recording system.

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Germany

Germany eases migrant naturalization process to attract skilled labour

The German government approved a proposed law change that aims to simplify the citizenship process. By offering a quicker path to German nationality, the government hopes to attract skilled migrants and address the persistent labor shortages that have been hindering the country's economy. The draft bill, initially introduced in May 2023, reduces the mandatory residency requirement for migrants to 5 years from the current 8 years.

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Germany

Germany facilitates visa application procedure for North Macedonians

The German embassy in Skopje recently declared that it is joining forces with an external service provider, beginning from September 2023. This collaboration aims to streamline the visa application process, particularly for individuals applying for work visas, making it more convenient for nationals.

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Germany

New German law to grant citizenship to millions of foreigners in the country

The German government has announced a new proposed citizenship legislation that aims to offer citizenship to individuals from other countries residing in the nation with simplified regulations and processes. Among other changes, the new regulations will reduce the necessary duration of residing in Germany from eight years to five years. Additionally, if at least one parent has been living in the country for five years, children who are born in Germany will be given citizenship.

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Latvia

Latvia tax agency updates guidance on residency determinations of Latvian residents working abroad

The Latvian State Revenue Service issued updated guidance regarding the determination of residency for Latvian citizens who work abroad. The objective of the updated guidance is to offer a clear understanding of taxation responsibilities and residency status for individuals earning income outside Latvia. As per Latvian tax regulations, an individual is deemed a resident of Latvia if they spend a minimum of 183 days in the country during a twelve-month period.

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United Kingdom

UK government considering short-term visa scheme for EU workers

The UK government has initiated negotiations for the introduction of a temporary visa scheme aimed at addressing labor shortages in the hospitality industry, allowing foreign workers to enter the country without impacting population figures.

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