



# Immigration News Highlights

2023-39, 26 September 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 to resume express entry draws, invites transport workers

The Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) confirmed that the process for Express Entry draws shall be resumed, after a month long break. Applicants shall be considered for the draw if they meet the minimum Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) score requirement of 496. The first draw shall be conducted for transport professions such as commercial pilots, truck drivers, aircraft assembly workers, etc.

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### United States

#### Updated prevailing wage determination processing times published

The US Department of Labor published the updated administering schedules for permanent labor certification (PERM) applications and prevailing wage determination (PWD) requests. The average number of days for analyst reviews for PERM applications was 323 calendar days, and 513 calendar days for the audit review.

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### United States

#### USCIS exempts biometric services fee for all Form I-539 applicants

The USCIS announced that all I-539 (Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status) applicants will be exempt from the biometrics service fee of US\$85. This exemptions shall enter into effect for applications submitted on or after 1 October 2023.

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## Asia Pacific

### China

#### [Visa application procedure for foreigners streamlined](#)

Chinese authorities announced the simplification of visa application procedure for foreigners wishing to travel to the country. Applicants would now be required to fill out less fields in the visa application forms. Travel history can be submitted for only one year, instead of the previous requirement of five years, and details regarding only the highest educational qualifications need to be provided.

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### New Zealand

#### [New Zealand expands job roles that offer foreign workers residency](#)

The government of New Zealand added 17 new occupations to the Immigration Green List- including prison guards, welders and aviation engineers. The Green List provides an expedite path to gaining residency.

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## Europe and Africa

### Austria

#### [Austria to permit registration of secondary residence electronically](#)

The Austrian Council of Ministers passed an amendment to the Registration Act, paving the way for the introduction of electronic registration of secondary residence. Currently, individuals are permitted to deregister their primary residence electronically, and shall soon be able to register their secondary residence in the same manner.

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### Denmark

#### [Denmark reminds Britons deadline to apply for residence permits expires on December 31](#)

Danish authorities issued a reminder to Britons regarding the approaching deadline for submitting their residence permit applications under the Withdrawal Agreement signed between the European Union and the United Kingdom. The agreement expires on 31 December 2023, and all applications must be submitted before this date.

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## European Union

### Europe ETIAS visa delayed to 2025

The launch of the EU ETIAS is confirmed to have been delayed to May 2025. The system was anticipated to have been operational by mid-2024, but the same will be postponed due to delay in implementation of the Entry/Exit System, another EU border security system that shall work in tandem with the ETIAS.

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## Georgia

### Georgia and Peru sign visa exemption agreement

Georgian and Peruvian authorities signed an agreement on visa free travel during the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The initiative was taken to further bilateral relations between the two countries.

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## Ireland

### Ireland introduces application form for extension of student permission

The Irish Domestic Residence and Permissions Division (DRP) introduced an application form for the Extension of Student Conditions. The form shall enable students who have been denied registration at their local immigration office, but who believe that there have been exceptional circumstances in their case, to apply to the DRP for an extension of their student permission.

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## Namibia

### Namibia launches online tourist visa application service

The government of Namibia launched their online tourist visa application service on 22 September 2023. The initiative was taken to boost tourism by providing a convenient way to obtain tourist visas in order to visit the country.

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## South Africa

### South Africa exempts Palestinian passport from entry visa

The government of South Africa announced the exemption of Palestinian passport holders from the requirement of obtaining a visa in order to enter the country. Citizens of Palestine shall be permitted entry at all South African airports, ports and border crossings, for a maximum stay period of 90 days.

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## United Kingdom

### UK imposes transit visa requirement for Georgian & Russian travelers

British authorities have confirmed that holders of Georgian and Russian passports shall be required to obtain a transit visa if they wish to pass through the United Kingdom en route to another destination.

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