



Immigration News Highlights

2023-48, 28 November 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

United States

USCIS Expands myProgress to Form I-485 and Form I-821

The USCIS announced the expansion of the myProgress service to Form I-821 (Application for Temporary Protected Status) and Form I-485 (Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status). It will initially only be accessible for family-based and Afghan special immigrant I-485 applicants.

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United States

Students required to use their passport details for visa slot

Applicants for F, M or J category student visas would now be required to use their own passport details while creating and scheduling their visa appointment. Those booking the appointments using an incorrect passport number shall be turned away at visa application centers and their appointment shall be cancelled. The measure is being taken to reduce fraud and abuse of the appointment system.

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United States

[US Embassy in UAE to expedite visa appointments amid high demand](#)

The US Embassy in UAE shall be expanding and improving capacity, along with expediting visa appointments in order to meet with backlogs after the COVID19 pandemic restricted the interviewing process for applicants.

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Asia Pacific

Afghanistan

[Afghanistan announces permanent closure of its diplomatic mission in India](#)

Afghanistani authorities announced the permanent closure of its embassy in New Delhi. The decision was taken after facing some internal conflicts and challenges with the government of India.

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India

[India resumes e-Visa facility for all eligible Canadian citizens](#)

The High Commission of India announced the resumption of issuing electronic visas to Canadian citizens from 22 November 2023. All Canadian citizens holding eligible Regular/Ordinary Canadian passports shall qualify for applying to the e-visas.

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Japan

[Japan announces tuberculosis tests for travelers from China](#)

The Japanese government confirmed that travelers to Japan arriving from six countries – China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Nepal and Myanmar – shall be required to take tuberculosis (TB) tests before entering the country. Only those visiting the country for more than three months shall be required to take the test.

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Malaysia

[Malaysia to allow visa-free entry to Indian citizens](#)

The government of Malaysia announced visa-free entry for citizens belonging to India and China, applicable from 1 December 2023. Individuals holding Indian and Chinese passports can stay in the country visa-free for up to 30 days.

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Saudi Arabia

[Saudi Arabia introduces new work visa rules for foreign domestic workers](#)

Saudi Arabian authorities announced the imposition of stricter rules for issuing visas for recruiting foreign domestic workers. The minimum age for obtaining such a visa by employers has been increased to 24 years. The measure has been taken for streamlining and regulating the domestic labour market.

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Thailand

Thailand offers 10-year visas for investors in the industrial east

The government of Thailand shall be offering business visas with a validity of 10 years. These visas are meant to attract foreign investment in the country's eastern region, and shall be primarily issued to businesses investing in modern, environmentally friendly industries.

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Vietnam

Vietnam to allow visa-free entry for Indian tourists

The government of Vietnam shall be granting tourists holding Indian passports visa-free entry for visits with a duration of up to 45 days. The measure is being taken for boosting the Thai tourism industry.

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Europe and Africa

European Union

EU updates rules for long-term resident status

The Council of the European Union announced updated rules for granting long-term residency to third-country nationals. They shall now be permitted to accumulate continuous and legal residence periods of up to two years, instead of the previous requirement of five. Certain additional criteria regarding permissible legal permits, proof of financial stability and integration conditions must be met in order to gain long-term residency.

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Switzerland

Switzerland to allow Sunday work in urban tourist hotspots

Swiss authorities have proposed a regulation permitting Sunday work in urban tourist hotspots. The exception shall be limited to large cities with the number of inhabitants exceeding 60,000 persons, and in which a proportion of at least 50 percent of foreign guests stay in hotels overnight.

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United Kingdom

Minimum wage increase announced

The government of United Kingdom announced a minimum 9 percent increase in the minimum wage level, to be applicable from April 2024. The hourly minimum wage shall increase to

GBP11.44 from the previous level of GBP10.42, and shall be applicable to all relevant workers in the country, including foreign workers.

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