



# Immigration News Highlights

2023-49, 5 December 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.](#)

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## Americas

### Canada

#### Canada increases application fees for re-entry or status restoration

The IRCC announced the recently introduced changes to application fees for foreign nationals applying to regain their status, or intending to return to Canada after facing inadmissibility. The revised fee structure has been in force since 1 December 2023, and is applicable across all categories of visas and permits. The fees were revised to reflect the effect of inflation, in accordance with the Service Fees Act (SFA).

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### Canada

#### Deadline to submit a permanent residence application under Express Entry extended

The IRCC announced an extension in the deadline for submitting an application for permanent residence under the Express Entry system by an additional 60 days. The action was taken to accommodate those who were unable to submit their applications due to technical issues with the online forms.

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## Asia Pacific

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### Sri Lanka

#### [Sri Lanka offers dual entry status on arrival to travelers from India and 6 other countries](#)

The government of Sri Lanka announced the granting of a dual entry status on arrival for travelers holding Indian, Chinese, Malaysian, Russian, Indonesian, Japanese and Thai passports. The visas shall be valid for 30 days of stay, and shall be issued free of charge. The measure is being introduced to boost tourism in the country.

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### Qatar

#### [New family residency and visit visa rules in Qatar](#)

Qatar authorities announced the implementation of new regulations for expatriates working in the country regarding family residence and visit visas. The new rules set the minimum salary requirement for sponsoring families at QAR10,000 for government employees, and at QAR6,000 for private sector employees. Sponsored family members shall be provided with accommodation by the company.

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### United Arab Emirates

#### [UAE grants golden visa extension to Pakistani nurses](#)

The government of United Arab Emirates extended the Golden Visa Program to include nurses of Pakistani nationality, in a bid to attract nurses from Pakistan to contribute to the Emirati healthcare sector. Nurses interested in the program must meet some prerequisites, like the possession of a valid nursing license in the UAE and a professional work experience of at least five years.

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## Europe and Africa

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### Cyprus

#### [Cyprus eases citizenship rules to attract tech talent and foster innovation](#)

Cypriot authorities have relaxed the rules for granting citizenship to foreign individuals in a bid to attract tech talent to the country. Under the new rules, foreign nationals possessing professional experience under the research and innovation sector shall be permitted to apply for fast track citizenship, which shall be granted at the discretion of the interior minister.

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## France

### French investors now eligible for 4-Year US Visa

The government of France signed a bilateral treaty with the US, allowing French investors to relocate to the US under an extended four-year US visa. The validity of the visa has double from the earlier limit of 25 months to 48 months now. However, the benefits of these measures shall not be available for those purchasing property without a future business intention.

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## Ireland

### Requirements eased for Stamp 4 immigration permission

Irish authorities have confirmed that certain qualifying Stamp 4 applicants will no longer be required to procure a letter of support from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, effective 30 November 2023.

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## Portugal

### Only startup foreign workers to benefit from NHR Scheme

Portuguese authorities have decided to change the tax regime for non-habitual residents, enabling individuals employed with companies certified as startups to avail the benefits available under the NHR scheme. Additionally, the scheme shall only be available for those deriving their income from careers such as high education and scientific research.

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## Sweden

### Fast-track work permit processing scheme closing

Swedish authorities released an advisory regarding the approaching deadline of 15 December 2023 for the closing of the fast-track work permit processing scheme. The scheme is open for employers certified as operators by the Swedish Migration Agency.

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## Switzerland

### Work permit quotas set for 2024

The government of Switzerland released the work permit quotas for 2024. The quotas remain unchanged for EU/EFTA, non-EU/EFTA and UK nationals. The number of permits to be issued to Croatian workers for 2024 has been capped at 1,204 B permits and 1,053 L permits.

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## United Kingdom

### Deadline for Brits to apply for residence permits expires on 31 December 2023

Danish authorities issued a reminder regarding the approaching deadline of 31 December 2023 for British citizens and their family members under the Withdrawal Agreement between the EU and the UK to submit applications for their residence permits. Those meeting all the

requirements stated under the Agreement, including the required legal residency as per EU rules can apply for the residence permit in Denmark.

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## United Kingdom

### UK hikes salary requirements for foreigners applying for work visas

The government of UK announced the updated minimum earnings thresholds for work visa applicants. Those applying for the work visa must now earn at least GBP38,700, increased from the previous requirement of GBP26,000.

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