



# Immigration News Highlights

2024-02, 9 January 2024



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

### Brazil

Americans, Canadians & Australians will be able to enter Brazil visa-free

Brazil has extended visa-free entry for American, Canadian, and Australian tourists until 10 April 2024.

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### United States

USCIS Issues Policy Guidance on “Ability to Pay” Requirement When Adjustment of Status Applicants Change Employers

The USCIS issued policy guidance on how they analyze an employer’s ability to pay the proffered wage for immigrant petitions in certain first, second, and third preference employment-based immigrant visa classifications, including instances when the sponsored worker is changing employers.

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## United States

### Nonimmigrant Visa Interview Waivers Expanded

The United States Department of State (DOS) has broadened the eligibility criteria for interview waivers to encompass more applicants of nonimmigrant visas. Additionally, the DOS has extended the validity period for interview waivers to those who are seeking to renew their nonimmigrant visa within 48 months of its expiration, if the new application is for the same visa category.

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## Asia Pacific

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## China

### Thailand, China to waive visas for each other's citizens

Thailand Government announced that Thailand and China will permanently waive visa requirements for each other's citizens from March.

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## Malaysia

### Updates on Entry Requirements

Malaysia's immigration authorities have made two updates that will affect companies and their expatriate hires or foreign visitors. Firstly, passport holders from China and India will have a 30-day visa exemption for social visits or tours, but other purposes still require a single-entry visa. Secondly, starting from January 2024, all foreign nationals must complete the Malaysia Digital Arrival Card (MDAC) application online before arrival, except for certain exempt individuals. However, those entering for the endorsement of a long-term pass still need to apply for the MDAC.

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## Sri Lanka

### Granting extensions for free tourist visa for seven nationals

The government has initiated an immediate visa-free regime for the citizens of China, India, Indonesia, Russia, Thailand, Malaysia, and Japan, which will last until 31 March 2024. This pilot program has been introduced to help revive the tourism industry, as approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

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## Turkey

### Visa-free travel expanded to six countries

The Government of Turkey introduced visa-free travel options for nationals of Bahrain, Canada, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States. Nationals of these countries will be permitted a visa-free stay of 90 days within any 180-day period for business purposes.

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### United Arab Emirates

[Reduced air fare and faster Schengen visa processing times for foreigners in United Arab Emirates](#)

Residents of the United Arab Emirates, who do not hold UAE passports, are now eligible for reduced airfare rates and shorter processing times for their visa applications. The processing time for visas has been significantly decreased to less than two weeks.

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## Europe and Africa

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### Denmark

[The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration has published the new Positive Lists](#)

Individuals who have received a job offer from one of the job titles listed on the Positive Lists can apply for a Danish residence and work permit under the relevant scheme. The Positive List for higher education includes 72 job titles, while the Positive List for skilled work includes 38 job titles.

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### Finland

[Finland increases financial requirement for Schengen visas](#)

Finnish authorities have announced an increase in the minimum daily financial requirement to stay in its territory from EUR30 to EUR50 effective from January 2024.

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### France

[France imposes deposit requirement for non-EU student visa candidates](#)

French government introduces a deposit requirement for student visa applicants from non-EU countries. The amount can be refunded, but it will be withheld if the applicant fails to comply with the departure conditions.

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### Germany

[Germany's Berlin Launches New Online Citizenship Application Form](#)

Berlin has launched a new online citizenship application form through which foreigners in the city will be able to learn more about their eligibility and apply for German citizenship.

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## Lithuania

### Lithuania makes it harder to bring foreign workers to the country

The Lithuanian government signed an order amending the procedures for issuing temporary residence permits to foreigners in the country. The key modifications aim to tighten the procedures for hiring foreigners, meaning employers will now have it harder to bring foreign workers to the country.

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## South Africa

### Electronic visas available for Omani citizens

The Foreign Ministry announced that Omani citizens wishing to visit the Republic of South Africa can apply for an electronic visa without the need to go to any of the South African missions.

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## Spain

### Spain grants visa-free entry for Kosovo citizens

Despite not recognizing Kosovo as an independent country, Spain now accepts for entry passports issued by authorities in Kosovo, permitting Kosovars to visit this country visa-free.

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## United Kingdom

### International students obliged to leave families behind

The UK Government's decision to implement stricter measures for students bringing their dependents to the country has become effective. As of January 2024, international students are no longer able to bring their family members to the UK, the government has decided.

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