



Immigration News Highlights

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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](#)

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Americas

Canada

Canada to decrease number of new international student permits issued

The Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship announced that the Government of Canada will set an intake cap on international student permit applications to stabilize new growth for a period of two years. For 2024, the cap is expected to result in approximately 3,60,000 approved study permits, a decrease of 35 percent from 2023.

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United States

February 2024 Visa Bulletin

The Visa Bulletin for February 2024, released by the US Department of State, shows minimal changes compared to the January 2024 Visa Bulletin. However, there is some progress indicated in the final action dates chart for the EB-2 and EB-3 categories in next month's visa bulletin. USCIS has confirmed that individuals can submit a Form I-485, application to register permanent residence or adjust status, in February 2024 based on the Dates of Filing.

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Asia Pacific



Australia

[Australia abolishes its Golden Visa Program](#)

Australia's government has decided to abolish the Significant Investor Visa (SVI) scheme, known as the Golden Visa program, which permitted wealthy foreign investors to acquire residency, provided they made a financial investment and met specified requirements.

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Egypt

[The new on-arrival visa policy for Bangladeshi citizens in Egypt](#)

The Egyptian government has introduced a new policy that allows Bangladeshi citizens to obtain visas upon arrival, but with certain conditions. This privilege is only available to Bangladeshi passport holders who have previously used visas or currently hold residence permits from a particular list of countries.

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India

[Person of Indian Origin \(PIO\) card validity extended](#)

Indian Immigration has announced that it will accept all PIO cards, along with a valid foreign passport, as a valid travel document till 31 December 2024, instead of the earlier deadline of 31 December 2023.

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Indonesia

[Enhancing appeal of Golden Visa to attract expat investors](#)

Indonesia has started offering residency to foreign investors, high net-worth individuals, and entrepreneurs through a golden visa initiative. It was introduced through the issuance of "Ministry of Law and Human Rights Regulation No. 22 Year 2023" and "Ministry of Finance Regulation Number 82 of 2023."

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Taiwan

[Taiwan to permit foreign graduates to stay for two years](#)

Taiwan has extended the stay duration for foreign university students after graduation as part of efforts to address a labor shortage caused by an ageing population.

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Thailand

Thailand introduces a New Muay Thai visa

Thailand has introduced a Muay Thai visa, which caters to foreigners aspiring to undergo training in the nation's native martial arts. The introduction of the Muay Thai education visa means that tourists who want to study the sport in their country of origin will be able to do so for a total of 90 days.

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United Arab Emirates

United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan mutually lift visa requirements

The United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan have signed a visa exemption agreement, allowing passport holders free movement between the two countries.

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Europe and Africa

Germany

German parliament approves law that makes it easier to gain German citizenship

In a significant move to modernize nationality laws, the German Bundestag approved a draft law that makes it easier for individuals to gain German citizenship.

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Hungary

Hungary to Restrict Visas for Foreign Temporary Workers

The Hungarian Ministry of Economy has announced that the country will restrict the number of work visas issued to foreign temporary workers to a maximum of 65,000 visas.

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Ireland

Ireland to process some remaining Golden Visa applications with priority

The Irish Department of Justice has announced that the plans for handling the termination of the Immigrant Investor Programme (IIP), also known as the Irish Golden Visa, which ended in February 2023, have been completed. According to these new plans, certain application categories will be prioritized for processing in the upcoming months.

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United Kingdom

United Kingdom grants visa-free entry to Kosovo defense and security force personnel

Kosovo's Defense Minister has announced that personnel from the Ministry of Defense and the Security Force of Kosovo engaged in military and official activities in the United Kingdom will be eligible to travel visa-free.

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United Kingdom

[United Kingdom grants another two years to 'Unaware' EU citizens to apply for settlement status](#)

The British government has decided that EU citizens residing in the country prior to Brexit, who were unaware of the EU settled scheme, can still apply late if they hold permanent residence cards.

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