



Immigration News Highlights

2024-13, 26 March 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](#)

[Asia Pacific](#)

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Americas

United States

US embassy in Mexico City eases visa appointment rescheduling, shortens wait times

The US Embassy in Mexico City has allowed first-time visitor visa applicants reschedule earlier appointments for free, aiming to cut wait times for Mexican visa applicants. Eligible applicants will get email instructions on how to change appointment dates. If slots are full, they should check regularly for more openings throughout the year.

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United States

April 2024 visa bulletin

The April 2024 Visa Bulletin released by the US Department of State reflects minimal movement from the March 2024 Visa Bulletin. USCIS will continue to accept Forms I-485, Applications to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, utilizing the Final Action Dates chart.

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United States

[USCIS extends initial registration period for FY 2025 H-1B cap](#)

USCIS has extended the initial registration period for the fiscal year FY 2025 H-1B cap. The initial registration period, which opened on 6 March 2024, and was originally scheduled to run through to 22 March 2024, will now run through to 25 March 2024. USCIS is aware of a temporary system outage experienced by some registrants and is extending the registration period to provide additional time due to this issue.

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Asia Pacific

Australia

[New English language requirements](#)

The Australian government has made changes to English Language Requirements for Student and Temporary Graduate visas. This change was announced as part of the Australian Government's Migration Strategy released on 11 December 2023 and applies to all Student and Temporary Graduate visa applications lodged on or after 23 March 2024.

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Australia

[New genuine student requirement](#)

From 23 March 2024, the Genuine Student requirement replaces the Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE) requirement for Student visas. Student visa applicants no longer need to satisfy the GTE requirement that they genuinely intend to only stay in Australia temporarily

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Australia

[1,000 agricultural workers from Vietnam will be able to enter Australia under facilitated rules](#)

The government of Australia has announced that 1,000 agricultural workers from Vietnam will be able to enter the country for work purposes under facilitated rules this year. Australia and Vietnam signed an agreement to implement the Memorandum of Understanding on 1 March 2024.

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Japan

[Japan unveils angel investor visa to boost startup investment](#)

Japan plans to introduce an innovative residency program that offers up to five years of residency for angel investors. Eligibility criteria for obtaining residency will include submitting investment proposals, assessing past performance, and assessing financial assets.

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Malawi

Malawi announces visa fee waivers for US and 75 additional nations

Malawi government has announced the waiver of entry visa fees for travelers coming from the United States along with more than 75 other nations. Under newly introduced amendments to Malawi's immigration law, citizens of the United States are now granted the privilege of visa-free entry into the country for a period of up to 90 days for business and pleasure purposes.

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United Arab Emirates

UAE introduces visa-on-arrival for 87 Countries

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates has announced that citizens from 87 countries now have the privilege of entering the UAE without the requirement to obtain a pre-entry visa. However, citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council 7 countries are exempt from these prerequisites and can enjoy visa-free travel to the UAE.

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Europe and Africa

Bulgaria

Bulgaria will not permit entry on Cyprus issued visas starting 31 March

Starting 31 March 2024, third-country nationals who hold visas and residence permits issued by Cyprus will not be permitted entry to Bulgaria.

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Denmark

Denmark updates income requirement for foreign residence and work permit applicants

Denmark will start applying a new income requirement from 1 April 2024, for foreign nationals who enter Denmark for work purposes and apply for residence and work permits. Applications submitted after 31 March 2024, will be assessed based on income statistics from the fourth quarter of 2023.

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Denmark

Residence Permits for Ukrainians in Denmark extended until March 2025

The Danish Immigration Service has announced the extension of residence permits granted under the Special Act of Ukraine, which will remain valid until 17 March 2025.

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France

France makes it easier for foreign agriculture seasonal workers to obtain visas

France government has decided to make it easier for foreign seasonal workers to obtain work visas and take up jobs in the agricultural sector. French agricultural companies can now hire non-EU/EEA seasonal workers under facilitated rules.

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Germany

Germany facilitates visa rules for working international students

Student visa holders are now allowed to work part-time jobs nine months ahead of the start of their academic courses. The same rules apply to apprenticeship applicants, while graduates from a German university will be allowed to change their field of work more easily. German university graduates will be eligible for permanent residency after gaining two years of work experience.

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Greece

Greece Introduces New Rules for Holiday Beachgoers in 2024

Greece has implemented strict new regulations for its beaches, affecting tourists preparing to visit the country this summer aiming to address overcrowding and ensure fairness.

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Greece

Greece increases Golden Visa investment requirement and introduces rental restrictions

Greece has officially decided to tighten its Golden Visa Program rules, increasing the minimum investment requirement that a foreigner needs to make in Greece to be granted a residence permit. The minimum investment requirement in popular regions and some islands is EUR800,000.

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Kosovo

Kosovo citizens eligible for seasonal jobs in Finland without needing to obtain work visas

Citizens of Kosovo are eligible to take up seasonal employment in Finland without having to undergo visa procedures following the visa liberalization. Kosovo passport holders will be permitted to work up to nine months within a one-year period in the country in agriculture and tourism sectors if they obtain requisite documents

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Portugal

More Portuguese municipalities introduce tourist taxes

Several municipalities in Portugal will join the initiative to charge tourists for overnight stays in the area, especially concerning the Algarve region. The collected fees will be used to improve environmental sustainability and maintenance in these destinations.

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Romania

New rules for highly skilled foreign workers and work permits

With effect from 8 March 2024, the condition for requesting work permits and the rules applicable to highly skilled workers have been amended by Romanian authorities. Firstly, the immigration legislation sets out a set of general conditions related to the employer and its activity in Romania, and secondly the legislation refers to specific conditions depending on the type of worker for whom the work permit is requested.

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