



Immigration News Highlights

2022-40, 4 October 2022



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

United States

[Green Card validity extended to 24 months for renewals](#)

The USCIS announced the extension of the validity of Permanent Resident Cards (Green Cards) by 24 months beyond the expiration dates for those who file Form I-90, instead of the current 12 month extension. [Read more.](#)

United States

[Registrations for Diversity Visa 2024 to open from 5 October, 2022](#)

The US State Department announced that online registrations for visas under the DV-2024 Program (Diversity Visa 2024) category shall be open from 5 October, 2022, and shall close on 8 November, 2022. [Read more.](#)

United States

[New US Bill seeks to provide faster path to citizenship for H-1B visa holders](#)

The US Senate introduced a new bill, intending to offer citizenship to select categories of applicants who have lived in the country for seven years. The Bill was introduced under the Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act. [Read more.](#)

United States

[USCIS announces extension of temporary waiver of 60-day rule for civil surgeon signatures on Form I-693](#)

The USCIS extended the temporary waiver of the requirement of civil servants for signing Form 1, Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record within 60 days before an applicant applies for immigration benefit. The waiver was set to expire on 30 September 2022 but shall now remain till 31 March 2023. The waiver was extended considering the processing delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more.](#)

United States

[United States to open 100,000 visa appointment slots, resume student visa interviews in November](#)

The US Embassy and consulates in India announced the resumption of interviews for student visas from November 2022. The US will also open 100,000 slots for first-timer H and L category worker visa applicants. [Read more.](#)

United States

[Global entry agreement signed with Dominican Republic](#)

The US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) signed an agreement with Dominican Republic, adding the country to the Global Entry Program. The program will allow Dominican citizens gain access to expedited clearance while entering the US through designated airports. [Read more.](#)

New Zealand**[Government allows a further 3000 seasonal workers to come to New Zealand](#)**

New Zealand authorities increased the limit of permitted seasonal workers under the Recognized Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme by 3000 places to combat labor shortage in the country. The government also announced improved working conditions and increased hourly pay for the workers. [Read more](#)

Thailand**[Thailand Lifts COVID-19 Border Restrictions](#)**

The Thai government announced nationwide expiration of the COVID-19 Emergency Decree. From 3 October 2022, foreign arrivals entering the country will no longer be required to confirm their status of vaccination or present COVID-19 test results. [Read more](#)

Saudi Arabia**[Saudi Arabia introduces new educational visas](#)**

Saudi Arabia announced the launch of new educational visas. Long-term visas will be granted to students, researchers, and experts for academic and research studies, while short-term visas will be granted for participation in student exchange programs, training, and language studies. [Read more](#)

**United Arab
Emirates****[COVID related entry restrictions relaxed](#)**

UAE announced the relaxation of COVID related entry restrictions for Abu Dhabi. Fully vaccinated foreign arrivals will now be required to take a monthly PCR test to maintain 'green status' in the country's Green Pass System. Travelers who are not fully vaccinated will be required to do the same every 7 days. [Read more](#)

**United Arab
Emirates****[UAE changes immigration laws](#)**

The Emirati authorities announced a change in immigration laws. Under the new visa rules, an expanded 10-year golden visa was launched, and a 5 year green residency scheme was introduced for skilled workers. [Read more](#)

Austria**[Austria to introduce new changes to red-white-red card](#)**

Austrian authorities announced changes to the Red-White-Red Card, applicable from 1 October 2022, intending to expedite processing times and simplifying the eligibility criteria. The changes pertain to the points allocation system, work experience, and language requirements. Further, the new changes may also remove the minimum salary requirements for graduates and extend the allocation of points for the applicants under Skilled Workers in Shortage Occupations based on their age. [Read more](#)

Germany**[Germany to open student visa appointment slots from November](#)**

The German Embassy in India will open appointment slots for student-visa applicants from 1 November 2022. The applicants shall be accepted only if they have obtained an APS certificate. [Read more](#)

Germany**[Germany to continue applying relaxed covid entry rules for incoming travelers](#)**

The German government announced the continued implementation of relaxed COVID related regulations for all travelers until 31 January 2023. Foreign arrivals will be permitted restriction-free entry into the country without presenting any vaccination proof or test certificate. [Read more](#)

Luxembourg**[Luxembourg to Lift COVID Entry Restrictions for Non-EU Travelers](#)**

The Luxembourg authorities have lifted COVID related entry regulations for all foreign arrivals from third (non-EU) countries. Travelers would be permitted restriction-free entry into the country regardless of their vaccination status from 1 October 2022. [Read more](#)

Spain

[Spain Unfolds Its Digital Nomad Visa Scheme to Attract International Workers](#)

Spanish authorities announced their plans to introduce a digital nomad visa, allowing American and non-EU citizens to visit the country and work remotely while working for companies situated outside Spain. [Read more](#)

Spain

[Spain Unfolds Plans to Hire Over 16,000 Agricultural Workers From Morocco](#)

Spain shall permit over 16,000 citizens from Morocco to travel to the country between 2022 and 2023 to work in different agricultural sectors under the Collective Management of Hiring at Origin (GECCO) scheme introduced by Morocco. [Read more](#)

United Kingdom

[Temporary COVID-19 right to work checks have come to an end](#)

The UK Home Office's temporary COVID-19 right to work checks expired on 1 October 2022. Employers would now be required to conduct the checks through the Home Office's online tool, through any service provider offering Identity Document Validation Technology, or in person, using the foreign national's original documents. [Read more](#)



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