



Immigration News Highlights

2022-44, 2 November 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](#)

[Asia Pacific](#)

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Americas

Argentina

[“Grandsons Law” Offers New Opportunities for Obtaining Spanish Citizenship](#)

Spain is introducing a new scheme enabling certain Argentine nationals to obtain Spanish citizenship. The law is intended to offer citizenship to those Argentineans who descend from citizens of Spain who were persecuted in Spain during the regime of Spanish dictator Francisco Franco and obliged to go into exile for political, ideological, or belief reasons.

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Canada

[Canada to increase immigration levels in the next three years to address labor shortages](#)

The Canadian Immigration Minister announced government plans to allow around 465,000 permanent residents in 2023, followed by 485,000 permanent residents in 2024, and 500,000 in 2025. The immigration levels were set considering the labor shortage in the country, especially in the healthcare and construction sector.

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United States

[Update provided on worldwide visa operations](#)

The US State Department gave an update regarding global visa operations, focusing on details like wait times, backlogs, and interview slot availabilities. According to the information provided, although appointments and processing times are improving, applicants should expect delays at US embassies and consulates all over the world.

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United States

[ACICS Loss of Recognition May Affect Certain Students Applying for English Language Study and 24-month STEM OPT Extension Programs, H-1B, and I-140 Applicants](#)

As of 19 August 2022, the US Department of Education no longer recognizes the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) as an accrediting agency. The measure affects students applying to the English language study programs and F-1 students applying for a 24-month STEM optional practical training (OPT) extension who may have to contact their educational institutions about how the loss of recognized accreditation could affect their status and immigration benefits applications.

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United States

[United States eases citizenship process for disabled immigrants](#)

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has shortened and abridged its disability waiver to the citizenship test, significantly simplifying the procedure for disabled immigrants. Under the waiver, immigrants with physical, mental, or learning disabilities are exempted from the English and civics test requirements.

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United States

[Pilot online passport renewal program launched by US Department of State](#)

The US Department of State has launched a pilot program for online renewal of passports. Citizens who qualify can renew their passports online by logging into their MyTravelGov account. Individuals who do not qualify for the renewal will have to carry out the procedure via mail or in person.

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United States

[USCIS Will Only Consider CW-1 Petitions Approved and with Starting Validity on or after June 18, 2020, when Applying the Temporary Departure Requirement](#)

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) issued a clarification on the requirement for workers to leave the country for at least 30 days after renewing their CNMI-Only Transitional Worker (CW-1) visa classification twice.

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Asia Pacific

China

[China residents will be able to travel to Macao using e-visa](#)

Chinese authorities announced that from 1 November 2022 onwards, residents belonging to mainland China shall be able to travel to Macao via an online visa system, as opposed to the previous system of submitting in-person visa applications.

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Indonesia

[New investor visa launched](#)

The Indonesian government launched a new investor visa category called Second-Home. The applications for the visa shall open on 24 December 2022 and shall allow foreign nationals having at least IDR 2 billion in an Indonesian state-owned bank to stay in the country for 10 years.

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New Zealand

[Guidance on medical certificate request provided](#)

The government of New Zealand has updated a guidance to foreign nationals, providing information about submission of medical certificates supplementing visa applications. Applicants are not to submit medical certificates unless requested by the government.

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Oman

[Visa-free entry to Oman announced for GCC residents](#)

Omani authorities shall now allow all commercial professionals belonging to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to enter the country without a visa, irrespective of the passenger's point of departure.

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Philippines

One Health Pass replaced with eARRIVAL Card for travelers' seamless entry to Philippines

The government of Philippines replaced the One Health Pass with the newly introduced eARRIVAL Card for foreign travelers. The card is meant to ease the country's stringent entry protocols, attracting more travelers and boosting the country's efforts for recovery of tourism.

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South Korea

K-ETA Program to be expanded

South Korean authorities announced the further addition of eight countries to their Visa Waiver Entry program (K-ETA). Travelers from Japan, Kiribati, Macao, Micronesia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Taiwan, and Tonga are now eligible to apply for K-ETA.

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Taiwan

Automatic visa extensions to end

Taiwan has ended their monthly visa extension program. Foreign individuals who have received automatic extension till 30 November 2022, will have to either leave the country or acquire a new visa. Extension applications shall be accepted under special circumstances like pregnancies, illnesses, hospitalizations, natural disasters, or humanitarian reasons.

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Europe and Africa

Czech Republic

Czech Republic to Open Embassy in Qatar

Czech authorities announced the opening of a new Embassy in Doha, the capital city of Qatar. This has been done in response to Qatar opening their embassy in the capital of Czech Republic.

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Denmark

Denmark Exempts Artists, Musicians & Performers Participating in Short-Term Events From Work Permit Requirement

Danish authorities announced a work-permit waiver for artists, musicians, and other performers participating in short-term events. This shall be applicable to all individuals who have not already received a guiding statement on whether they are exempt from the requirement of a work permit.

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Latvia

Latvia Launches New Online Immigration Tool for Foreigners

Latvia announced the launch of a new online system for foreign nationals wishing to seek immigration information in Latvia. The system will provide details on processing of residence permits, visas and work permit documentation requirements.

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