



# Immigration News Highlights

2022-47, 22 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](#)

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## Americas

### Canada

#### Workers from 16 new occupations eligible for permanent residence

Canadian authorities added 16 new occupations to the list of professionals eligible for permanent residence. The additions include the occupations of nurse aides, long term care aides, hospital attendants, elementary and secondary school teacher aspirants, transport truck drivers, etc. The occupations were added considering the labor shortage in the country.

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### Canada

#### Bilateral Youth Mobility Agreement introduced

A bilateral Youth Mobility Agreement was signed by the governments of Canada and Italy, allowing Canadian and Italian nationals between the ages of 18 and 35 to live and work in the two countries for up to 12 months. Applicants can participate in the program under the Young Workers category, the International Internship category, or the Working Holidays category.

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## United States

### December Visa Bulletin updated

The December Visa Bulletin was updated by the US State Department. All countries under EB-1 category remained current. China remained at 8 July 2019, while India remained at 1 May 2012 under EB-2. China advanced over a month to 1 September 2018 and India advanced one month to 1 August 2012 for EB-3 category.

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## United States

### Addressing U.S. Visitor Visa Wait Times

The US State Department announced its plan to reach pre-pandemic visa processing levels during 2023. It further announced that it had reduced visa interview wait times worldwide. In November 2022, the median wait time for tourist visa interview appointments stood about two months.

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## United States

### Diversity Visa Reassignment Procedures for Kabul

The US State Department advised Diversity Visa selectees for 2023 who were assigned to the US embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, to request for reassignment to another embassy or consulate that processes these applications. Currently, the US Embassy operations remain suspended in Kabul.

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## Asia Pacific

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## Bangladesh

### Bangladesh to introduce e-visa soon

The Home Minister announced that Bangladesh shall be launching electronic visa services to fully digitize the passport and the immigration sector.

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## Bangladesh

### Bangladeshi applicants for UK visa need to pay online from Nov 28

Bangladeshi applicants applying for a UK visa will have to make visa fees payment online on the official UK government website before submitting their passports and biometrics and the assigned Visa Application Centre. This measure will be applicable from 28 November 2022, as announced by the British High Commission in Dhaka.

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## Israel

### Israel to advance US visa waiver after blocking it

The Israeli Prime Minister announced his plans to prioritize the entry of Israel into the US Visa Waiver Program. The Program will allow repeated visa-free entry into Israel for American residents.

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## Macau

### Macau adopts '5+3' for arrivals from outside mainland

The Macau government announced further shortening of COVID related quarantine requirements. Foreign arrivals and arrivals from the Chinese mainland would now be required to be in quarantine for 5 days, instead of the previous 7 day period. Upon completing 5 days of hotel-quarantine, individuals would be required to complete an additional 3 days of home quarantine.

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## United Arab Emirates

### Grace period after visa cancellation extended

Emirati authorities have extended the visa overstay grace period for foreign nationals whose visas were cancelled. Holders of green residency and their family members, golden residency and their family members, widows and divorcees of a foreigner residing in UAE, students who recently completed their studies, and skilled professionals employed in first and second level classification occupations are now allowed to stay in UAE for 180 days past the date of their visa expiry.

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## Europe and Africa

## Germany

### Germany Resumes Issuing Schengen Visas for Nationals of Turkmenistan

The German Embassy in Ashgabat has started accepting Schengen visa applications from Turkmenistan nationals again. Applicants can book their appointments through the electronic system. Further, there would be no limit on the number of applications to be accepted.

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## Switzerland

### Switzerland to Restrict Access to Labor Market for Croatians in 2023

Switzerland announced the restriction of the Swiss labor markets for Croatians from 1 January 2023. This decision was taken because of a significant increase in the number of Croatian workers in Switzerland, exceeding the cap set according to the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons.

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## United Kingdom

### Updated guidance for sponsors provided by UK Home Office

The British Home Office provided an updated guidance for employers sponsoring foreign nationals through the Worker and Temporary Worker immigration programs.

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## United Kingdom

### UK announces 3,000 visas for Indian professionals

British authorities signed an agreement with India, approving over 3,000 visas for young professionals of Indian nationality. The agreement was signed between the Prime Ministers of both countries at the recent G20 Summit. The visas shall allow Indian professionals between the age group of 18 to 30 years old, having a degree qualification to work in the UK for up to 2 years.

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## United Kingdom

### Global universities list updated

The 2022 global universities list was released by the British immigration authorities. The list is used to select High Potential Visas, which allow foreign nationals without a job offer to apply for a short term work visa. The applicants must have graduated from any of the eligible international universities mentioned in the list, in the previous five years.

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