



# Immigration News Highlights

2023-01, 1 January 2023



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](#)

[Europe and Africa](#)



## Americas

### Canada

#### Canada to update Global Talent Occupations List

Canadian authorities updated the Global Occupations List to now include jobs like aerospace engineers, civil engineers, mining engineers, computer and information system managers, database analysts and data administrators, digital media designers, etc. The updated list entered into force on 22 December 2022.

[Read More](#)

### Canada

#### Canada requires China travelers to test negative for Covid

Canada imposed COVID related entry restrictions on travelers arriving from China. Individuals aged two years and above will be required to provide proof of negative COVID test results, taken no more than two days prior to boarding a flight originating and departing from China, Hong Kong or Macau, and arriving in Canada. The measure was imposed as a response to concerns over rising COVID cases in China.

[Read More](#)

## United States

### [Global visa wait times table published](#)

The US State Department published a table reflecting estimated visa appointment times for certain application cases. Applicants will be able to see global wait times in one place, and accordingly apply for their visa interview appointments at the appropriate US Embassies or Consulates. The measure is targeted to improve increased visa processing delays at consulates around the world.

[Read More](#)

## United States

### [Applications for employment-based-adjustment-of-status shall be accepted based on filing dates published in the January Visa Bulletin](#)

The USCIS announced that eligibility of applications for adjustment of status based on employment shall be determined according to the dates published in the State Department's Dates for Filing chart in the January Visa Bulletin.

[Read More](#)

## United States

### [Announcement on waivers of the interview requirement for certain nonimmigrant visas](#)

The US State Department extended a policy waiving in-person interviews for selected temporary employment and academic-based nonimmigrant visa categories, and renewal applications for nonimmigrant category visas expired within the last 48 months. Qualifying temporary employment visa categories include the H-1, H-3, H-4, L, O, P, Q and certain agricultural and nonagricultural H-2 visas.

[Read More](#)

## United States

### [CDC announces negative COVID 19 test requirements from air passengers entering the United States from China](#)

The Center for Disease Control announced that it would require travelers boarding planes to the United States from the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau to have a negative COVID 19 test or certificates of recovery. The measure was introduced in response to concerns over surging COVID cases in China.

[Read More](#)



### China

#### [China & Albania reach visa-free travel agreement](#)

China and Albania signed a visa waiver agreement, allowing the citizens to enter the other country without a visa.

[Read More](#)

### China

#### [China to resume passport, visa issuance from 8 January 2023](#)

The Chinese National Immigration Administration announced the resumption of immigration and administration services from 8 January 2023 after a period of downgrading in compliance with the country's COVID 19 response measures. Authorities will resume processing applications for passports, visas, endorsements, and exit-and-entry permits for Chinese citizens.

[Read More](#)

### China

#### [China ends Covid quarantine for travelers in January](#)

Chinese authorities announced the scrapping of COVID related entry restrictions imposed according to the country's zero-COVID policy. From 8 January 2023 onwards, foreign travelers will no longer be required to quarantine upon arrival to the country.

[Read More](#)

### India

#### [E-Visa services reinstated for Canadians](#)

Indian authorities reinstated their e-visa services for Canadian travelers. The country's e-Visa Platform can be used for applying to various visa categories like tourist visa, business visa, conference visa, medical visa, and medical attendant visas. The online facility had been suspended previously as a COVID 19 travel restriction measure.

[Read More](#)

### India

#### [India-Australia trade pact to open up new category of 4-year investor visa, along with other measures](#)

India and Australia signed the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), opening a new 4-year visa category for investors. According to the agreement, Australian authorities will also issue 1,800 new visas to Indian chefs and yoga instructors, along with granting employment opportunities to Indian students studying in Australia post their education.

[Read More](#)

## India

### [India and Austria to sign migration and mobility agreement](#)

India signed a Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement (MMPA) with Austria, facilitating easier migration and mobility of workers, curbing illegal migration, and regulating multiple entry visas for professionals and student exchange programme participants.

[Read More](#)

## Morocco

### [Morocco to Issue E-Visas for Nationals of India, Guatemala, Azerbaijan & Jordan](#)

The Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that 10 January 2023 onwards, e-Visas will be issued to citizens of India, Guatemala, Azerbaijan, and Jordan.

[Read More](#)

## Qatar

### [Qatar resumes visa on arrival](#)

The government of Qatar announced the resumption of visa on arrival and visa waiver policy for 95 countries, following the conclusion of the FIFA World Cup. Depending on the country or origin and duration of stay, individuals from qualifying countries will be granted visas on arrival or a visa-free entry to Qatar.

[Read More](#)

## Saudi Arabia

### [Re-entry visa and residency renewal fees doubled for expats outside Saudi Arabia](#)

Saudi authorities doubled the fees for renewal of exit and re-entry visas for residents outside the Kingdom. For residents inside the Kingdom, the fee shall be SAR200 in case of single trips with maximum duration of two months, with an additional SAR100 for each extended month. Fee for multi-entry visas for the same is SAR500 for 3 months, with additional SAR200 for every extended month. The fee shall be doubled in both cases for residents outside the Kingdom.

[Read More](#)

## South Korea

### [South Korea announces requirements for travelers from China](#)

Chinese travelers would also be required to undergo multiple COVID 19 tests and another PCR test within 24 hours of arrival in Korea. Individuals testing positive will be required to quarantine for 7 days at a designated facility.

[Read More](#)

## Taiwan

### [MOL expands scope of online work permit applications for foreign nationals](#)

The Taiwanese Ministry of Labor (MOL) announced the expansion of a government online work permit application system for foreign nationals to now cover cram schools, jobs associated with the arts, and the adult children of foreign professionals who hold work permits. Individuals wishing to apply for or renew their permits will have to create an account on the EZ Work Permit website for online processing of their applications.

[Read More](#)



## Europe and Africa

## Finland

### [Finland's D visa to accelerate entry of students & researchers with residence permits](#)

The Finnish Ministry of Interior announced the granting of long-term D Visas to students, researchers, and company executives, along with their family members. The measure was introduced as a part of increased efforts to contribute to education and work-based immigration, as well as to streamline the overall immigration process.

[Read More](#)

## France

### [France to impose COVID 19 entry restrictions for travelers from China from January 5](#)

French authorities announced renewed COVID related entry restrictions for Chinese arrivals, following the surge in COVID 19 cases in China. Travelers aged 12 and above will be required to present proof of negative COVID results with a test taken within 48 hours prior to arrival to France. Individuals will also be required to sign a certificate declaring that they do not show any symptoms of COVID 19.

[Read More](#)

## France

### [France puts an end to visa dispute with Algeria](#)

French authorities announced the termination of the ongoing visa dispute with Algeria. In an effort to improve relations between the two countries, France will no longer issue limited number of visas to Algerian applicants.

[Read More](#)

## Greece

### [Greece to permit non-EU nationals to leave & return more than once until 31 December 2023](#)

The Greek Ministry of Citizen Protection announced that third country nationals will be permitted to exit and re-enter the country multiple times during the period of 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023. The decision was taken to simplify the travel procedure for citizens entering from third countries.

[Read More](#)

## Ireland

### Ireland to apply changes to atypical working scheme from 1 January 2023

The Irish government announced modifications to the Atypical Working Scheme, to be enforced from 1 January 2023. The amendments include a change in the salary threshold from the current National Minimum Wage, in line with the salary requirement for a General Employment Permit (EUR 30,000).

[Read More](#)

## Italy

### Italy has imposed mandatory COVID 19 tests for travelers from China

Italian authorities announced the implementation of strict COVID related entry restrictions on travelers arriving from China, as a response to rising concerns of surging COVID 19 cases in China. Individuals over the age of 6 years will be required to undergo mandatory COVID testing upon arrival in or transiting via Italy. Those testing positive will be required to quarantine for a period of 7 days at a designated facility.

[Read More](#)

## Serbia

### Serbia introduces visas for nationals of India & Guinea-Bissau from 1 January 2023

Serbia ended the visa-free regime for citizens of India and Guinea-Bissau, in line with the EU visa policy. Travelers from these two countries will now have to apply for a visa before traveling to Serbia from 1 January 2023 at the Serbian embassies present in the respective countries.

[Read More](#)

## Spain

### Spain imposes COVID 19 restrictions on arrivals from China

Spain introduced COVID related entry restrictions against travelers arriving from China. Upon arrival, individuals will be required to present evidence of a negative COVID test, or a proof of complete vaccination against the virus with any of the vaccines approved by the World Health Organization (WHO). The measures were introduced as a response to rising concerns of surging COVID cases in China.

[Read More](#)

## Switzerland

### Switzerland to keep borders open for arrivals from China

Swiss authorities confirmed that they will not be implementing any entry restrictions on passengers arriving from China. Travelers will not be required to provide any proof of COVID negativity or vaccination upon arrival to Switzerland.

[Read More](#)





**Thomas Wolf**  
Head of KPMG's Global  
Immigration Network  
T: +49 30 530 199-300  
E: [twolf@kpmg-law.com](mailto:twolf@kpmg-law.com)

[social.kpmg](https://social.kpmg)



[Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

© 2023 Copyright owned by one or more of the KPMG International entities. KPMG International entities provide no services to clients. All rights reserved.

KPMG refers to the global organization or to one or more of the member firms of KPMG International Limited ("KPMG International"), each of which is a separate legal entity. KPMG International Limited is a private English company limited by guarantee and does not provide services to clients. For more detail about our structure please visit <https://home.kpmg/governance>.

Member firms of the KPMG network of independent firms are affiliated with KPMG International. KPMG International provides no client services. No member firm has any authority to obligate or bind KPMG International or any other member firm vis-à-vis third parties, nor does KPMG International have any such authority to obligate or bind any member firm.