



# Immigration News Highlights

2023-12, 21 March 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 announces extension of post-graduation work permits

Canadian authorities announced the extension of work permits validity for those with a recently expired or near expiration post-graduation work permit (PGWP). The extension shall be valid for 18 months after the date of expiry, and shall allow the holder of the permit to continue staying in the Canada and gain work experience.

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### United States

Croatian citizens can now apply for Global Entry

The US Customs and Border Protection announced the addition of Croatia to the Global Entry Program. Interested Croatian nationals can apply for the program through the designated website and pay a fee of US\$ 100. The program allows pre-approved, low risk travelers to enjoy the benefits of expedited security clearance at select US airports.

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### United States

USCIS announces additional mail delivery process for receiving ADIT Stamp

The USCIS has launched a mail delivery facility for receiving Alien Documentation, Identification and Telecommunication (ADIT) stamps. Lawful permanent citizens would no longer be required to schedule an in-person appointment with a field officer to receive their ADIT stamps, instead the individual can just submit a request for the ADIT stamp to be issued via mail.

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## United States

### United States to extend H-1B registration deadline

The USCIS extended the registration deadline for H-1B visas to 20 March 2023. The initial deadline was 17 March 2023, which was extended due to several technical issues faced by applicants during the application window.

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## Asia Pacific

### India

#### US Consulate moves facility to Nanakramguda

The US consulate in Hyderabad was relocated to Nanakramguda, starting operations from 20 March 2023. The shifting of the consulates will not affect the process of biometrics or interviews, which shall continue being carried out at the Visa Application Center in Madhapur.

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### Oman

#### Oman announces 14-day visa-free entry to tourists

The Omani authorities announced visa free entry for nationals from 103 countries, including Croatia, Norway, Switzerland, Hungary and Georgia. The visa free entry shall be valid for a stay of up to 14 days, and can be extended for another 14 days, with an extension fee applicable.

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### United Arab Emirates

#### Free entry to North Macedonia announced for certain passport holders

The government of United Arab Emirates signed a memorandum of understanding with the government of North Macedonia, allowing for mutual visa exemption during entry in North Macedonia for holders of diplomatic, special and official passports.

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### United Arab Emirates

#### UAE to introduce new freelance work permits for 'all skill levels'

Emirati authorities are to introduce a flexible work permit for people of all skill levels, allowing them to take up freelance jobs in the country. The new permit is expected to be launched in late 2023, and will be issued to individuals irrespective of their country of origin.

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## United Arab Emirates

### UAE increases transit visa fee

The Emirati authorities announced an increase in the 96-hour transit visa fee to AED 218.78 from the earlier price of AED 148.93. The 30-day express transit visa fee has also been increased to AED 307.22.

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## Europe and Africa

### Albania

#### Albania suspends its Golden Passport Program

The Albanian Prime Minister announced the permanent suspension of the country's Golden Passport Program. Under the scheme, those who bought apartments in Durres Port were to be granted with free passports. The Program had faced severe criticism from the European Union, and was hence banned.

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### Estonia

#### Estonia increases minimum funds requirement for short-term employment under D Visa

The government of Estonia has increased the minimum level of funds required for applying for short term employment under the D-visa category offered by the country. Applicants would be required to show proof of at least EUR 1200 in savings or earnings per month in order to apply for the D-visa.

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### Italy

#### Italian govt to simplify rules for working & residing in Italy for foreigners

The government of Italy introduced several changes to the rules for foreigners wishing to work in the country. The validity of renewed residence permits has been extended for a period of three years. Under the permit, the holder can be employed for the purposes of permanent employment or self-employment. The earlier validity was for a period of two years. The changes have been introduced as a measure to combat the ongoing labour shortage in the country.

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### Portugal

#### Portugal urges Britons to apply for their new permanent residence cards

Portuguese authorities have called upon Britons living in the country to apply for new permanent identity cards. Due to the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union, British citizens would be required to apply for new paperwork and would also have to go through the process of biometric and data collection.

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## Slovenia

### Slovenia to amend its aliens act in a bid to lure more foreign workers

The government of Slovenia announced the amendment of the Slovenian Aliens Act, removing several unnecessary administrative procedures, and offering free Slovenian language courses to interested foreigners. The amendments will also make it easier for applicants to acquire residence permits and registration certificates. The measures were introduced in a bid to tackle the ongoing labor shortage in the country.

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## United Kingdom

### UK to introduce travel authorization requirement in November 2023

The government of UK announced the launch of a travel authorization requirement called the Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA). The ETA will be applicable from November 2023 onwards, but will not be applicable to EU nationals until next year. The ETA shall be in place for all those who do not need a visa to enter the United Kingdom.

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