



Immigration News Highlights

2024-01, 2 January 2024



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.](#)

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[Americas](#)

[Asia Pacific](#)

[Europe and Africa](#)



Americas

Canada

Canada invites Caregivers to apply via re-launched programs from January 2024

The government of Canada announced the relaunch of the Home Child Care Provider Pilot and the Home Support Worker Pilot programs. Interested individuals were invited to apply for the programs from 1 January 2024 onwards.

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United States

USCIS announces inflation adjustment to premium processing fees

The USCIS announced a hike in premium processing fees, with the renewed adjustment increasing fees for different categories from US\$1,500 to US\$1,685; US\$1,750 to US\$1,965; and US\$2,500 to US\$2,805 (depending on the applicable category form type). The updated fee structure shall enter into force from 26 February 2024 onwards. Forms submitted with the incorrect filing fee shall be rejected.

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Asia Pacific

China

[China eases visa application for US tourists](#)

Chinese authorities announced the simplification of visa applications for tourists from the United States, effective from 1 January 2024. The measure is aimed at reviving tourism and boosting the Chinese economy post the COVID-19 pandemic. American tourist visa applicants will no longer be required to submit air ticket bookings, hotel reservations, or an invitation letter.

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Indonesia

[Indonesia starts offering 5-year multiple entry visas to boost tourism](#)

The government of Indonesia launched a five-year multiple-entry visa for individuals entering the country for business purposes. The visa will cost US\$972, have a validity of five years, and shall allow the holder to live in the Indonesian territory for up to 60 days.

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Japan

[Japan to grant long-term resident status to fourth-generation Japanese](#)

The Japanese Immigration Services Agency announced that ethnic Japanese immigrants shall be granted long-term resident status, provided they meet certain requirements, including proficiency in the Japanese language. The measure will allow descendants of Japanese individuals who emigrated abroad to permanently stay in Japan, and to also move their families to Japan after renewing the status after five years.

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Kuwait

[Kuwait allows part-time job for expats in private sector](#)

Kuwaiti authorities issued a ministerial decision allowing private sector employees to work part-time for another employer with their original employer's approval. Employees shall be permitted to work a maximum of four hours per day with a part-time work permit from the Public Authority for Manpower. The measure aims to address the demographic imbalance issue and meet labor market needs, exempting the contracting sector from the maximum hours condition.

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Saudi Arabia

[Expats required to register fingerprints of their family members](#)

Saudi Arabian authorities have made it mandatory for expatriates residing in the country to register the fingerprints of their family members who are aged six years and above. The

registration is required to allow continued access for individuals to the services provided by the Kingdom's General Directorate of Passports.

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Saudi Arabia

[Exit/re-entry visa cancellation via Absher platform linked to employer](#)

The Saudi General Directorate of Passports announced that expatriates can have their exit/re-entry visas cancelled by their employer on the government's electronic platform, Absher. The process can be carried out through the employer's account. The fees for issuing the visa are non-refundable.

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South Korea

[South Korea announces 'Workation' visa for foreign nationals](#)

South Korean authorities announced the initiation of a test phase for a visa, the "Workation" visa, meant to allow foreign nationals to travel to the country for work in 2024. The visa shall be valid for a period of up to one year from the date of entry, with an extension of another year available. Eligibility criteria include being employed with a foreign company.

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Thailand

[Thailand launched an online visa extension system](#)

Thai authorities announced the launch of a new online visa extension system for foreign tourists, allowing foreigners with 12 types of visas to apply for extensions online. The initiative aims to simplify and expedite the immigration process, and is currently available at key immigration offices in Bangkok, Chon Buri, Chiang Mai, and Phuket.

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Europe and Africa

Denmark

[Denmark raises monthly allowance & financial support for language classes for au pairs](#)

The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration (SIRI) announced an increase in monthly allowance for Danish language classes for au pairs to EUR650. An additional EUR2,589 shall be allocated for Danish language classes. The importance of the application submission date in determining the rates was also emphasized.

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Finland

[Finnish government announces residency application fee changes for 2024](#)

The Finnish Immigration Service announced changes in the processing fees for residency applications, to be enforced from 1 January 2024. Fees for online permanent residence permits

applications shall range from EUR160 to EUR220, and fees for paper applications shall be EUR270.

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France

British second home-owners granted extended stay in France

The government of France passed certain amendments to the French immigration bill, allowing British second home-owners to stay in France for more than 90 days. The condition is the same as was initially agreed upon post Brexit. The measure shall facilitate the movement of expatriates between the UK and France.

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Portugal

Portugal launches new platform to simplify procedures for acquiring nationality

Portuguese authorities announced the launch of the new Nationality Platform, easing and expediting the process of obtaining Portuguese nationality. The online service shall be available for all cases of applications for nationality.

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Portugal

Portugal rewards bachelor's & master's graduates with incentive bonuses

The government of Portugal shall reward those who bachelor's and master's degrees and live in the country with a salary bonus. The initiative is meant to boost the individual's qualifications, and shall also be available for foreign residents. The bonus shall be offered for as many years as the respective study cycles last.

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United Kingdom

New fees for document legalization announced

British authorities released an updated fee structure for legalizing public documents, enforceable from 1 January 2024. Legalization of documents can be done by submitting them to the Legalization Office, as required for various international transactions and immigration procedures.

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