



# Immigration News Highlights

2024-08, 20 February 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

### Canada

#### Canada opens new visa application centre in Portugal

The Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced the opening of a new Canada visa application center (VAC) in Lisbon, Portugal, on 26 February 2024. With this new center, IRCC's VAC network will consist of 163 locations in 110 countries around the world.

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### United States

#### March 2024 visa bulletin

The March 2024 Visa Bulletin released by the US department of State reflects a significant change from the February 2024 Visa Bulletin. Notably, USCIS will accept Forms I-485,

Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, utilizing the Final Action Dates chart.

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## Asia Pacific

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### Australia

[Australian universities request international students to withdraw offers amid visa changes](#)

The government announced a migration strategy in December that prioritizes student visa applications based on the risk levels of educational institutions. In response to these changes, several Australian universities have requested that some international students withdraw their offers.

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### India

[India, Taiwan sign migration agreement to strengthen bilateral cooperation](#)

India and Taiwan signed a migration and mobility agreement that will facilitate the employment of Indian workers in diverse sectors in the self-ruled island, a move that is seen as reflective of the renewed momentum in the cooperation between the two sides.

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### Indonesia

[Bali introduces new US\\$15 tourist tax](#)

The Indonesian government has implemented a new tourism tax aimed at foreign visitors to Bali, starting from February 2024. Travelers will be required to pay a one-time fee of US\$15 per person.

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### Japan

[Japanese embassy in Kosovo begins visa issuance](#)

The Japanese embassy in Kosovo has officially started issuing visas, as confirmed through a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora of Kosovo. Starting 24 March 2024 holders of official or diplomatic passports from Kosovo will be able to travel to Japan visa-free.

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### Singapore

[Singapore to fully automate airport checking process in 2024](#)

Singapore has announced that starting from second half of 2024, visitors will be able to enter the country using automated lanes, facilitating checking procedures for all visitors, regardless of their nationality.

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## Thailand

[Thailand to extend visa waiver program for additional countries](#)

Thai and Indonesian citizens can travel visa-free between the two countries starting 1 March 2024. Thailand's government also announced that his government intends to extend visa-free travel privileges to citizens of many new countries.

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## Thailand

[Visa-free Thailand is now offering tourists up to US\\$14,000](#)

Thailand has announced a new initiative offering tourists up to US\$14,000 in medical coverage in case of accidents. Under the scheme the government will cover expenses up to US\$14,000 and provide compensation of up to US\$28,000 in the event of death.

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## United Arab Emirates

[UAE scraps Golden Visa down payment](#)

The UAE has made a notable change in policy by eliminating the mandatory minimum down payment for its Golden Visa program, intending to draw in more investors and skilled workers who desire extended residency.

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## United Arab Emirates

[Emirates ID renewal fines waived for three categories in UAE](#)

The Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs, and Ports Security provides exemptions for fines related to Emirates ID renewal for certain categories. Individuals who are traveling abroad, facing deportation or passport issues, and new citizens are eligible for this relief. If the renewal is not completed within 30 days, daily fines are imposed, but waivers can be obtained for eligible cases.

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## Europe and Africa

### Germany

[Germany launches talent card for non-EU labour](#)

Germany has introduced the Opportunity Card, revolutionizing job prospects for non-EU skilled workers. Effective 1 June 2024, this points-based system simplifies job hunting for qualified individuals, aligning with German standards, and facilitating employment opportunities.

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## Greece

### Greece aims to streamline residence permit process for legal migrants

The Greek government has announced initiatives to simplify the process of obtaining and renewing residence permits for legal migrants. The Minister of Migration and Asylum in Greece has declared 2024 as the "year of legal migration." The country aims to handle 850,000 migration files by the first half of 2026.

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## United Kingdom

### Brits planning EU summer trips urged to verify passport validity

UK nationals planning summer trips to EU countries need to ensure their passports are valid for at least three months beyond their planned departure from the EU, in accordance with Schengen rules post-Brexit.

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