



Immigration News Highlights

2024-10, 5 March 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 announces the launch of the Canada–Finland Youth Mobility Agreement

The Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship department has announced that the Canada-Finland Youth Mobility Agreement, which was signed in May 2023, is active. This agreement enables individuals between the ages of 18 and 35 from Canada and Finland to work and travel in each other's countries through the International Experience Canada Program or its Finnish counterpart.

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Canada

Canada extends special measures for Iranian residents & citizens until February 2025

The Government of Canada has announced an extension of special measures aimed at providing support to Iranian temporary residents in Canada, as well as Canadian citizens and permanent residents residing in Iran until February 2025.

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Canada

Updates to visa requirements for Mexican nationals

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada has made an announcement regarding the visa requirements for Mexican nationals. Starting from February 2024, Mexican nationals will no longer be eligible for visa-free travel to Canada. Instead, all Mexican nationals will be required to obtain a temporary resident visa, unless they meet the eligibility criteria for an Electronic Travel Authorization.

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United States

FY 2025 H-1B Registration Period and myUSCIS Organizational Account Reminders

On 28 February 2024, USCIS launched new organizational accounts for myUSCIS, enabling multiple individuals within an organization, along with their legal representatives, to collaborate on and prepare H-1B registrations, H-1B petitions, and any related Form I-907, Request for Premium Processing Service. To participate in the H-1B Electronic Registration Process beginning in March 2024, organizations will need to create a new organizational account.

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United States

Certain updated forms take Effect on April 1 with no grace period

Beginning on 1 April 2024, in accordance with the new fee rule, the following forms must be filled out using the 04/01/24 editions: Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker; Form I-129 CW, Petition for a CNMI-Only Nonimmigrant Transitional Worker; Form I-140, Immigrant Petition for Alien Workers; Form I-600, Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative; and Form I-600A, Application for Advance Processing of an Orphan Petition.

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Asia Pacific

Azerbaijan

Albania & Azerbaijan have officially lifted visa requirements for each other's citizens

The Republic of Azerbaijan and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania have officially signed an agreement aimed at the mutual waiver of visas for holders of standard international passports.

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China

[China restarts issuing visas to Lithuanians](#)

Chinese authorities have begun the process of reissuing visas to nationals of Lithuania. This comes after China had suspended the issuance of visas to Lithuanian citizens in January 2024.

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China

[China grants visa-free travel to Georgians](#)

Chinese government has implemented a new policy that allows citizens of Georgia to travel to China without the need for a visa. Under this new arrangement, Georgian nationals can now stay in China for up to 30 days without obtaining a visa.

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Egypt

[Undocumented Filipinos in Egypt required to legalise their status by 15 March 2024](#)

Undocumented Filipinos in Egypt have been advised by the Philippine government to legalize their residency by 15 March 2024. The initial deadline for foreigners residing illegally in Egypt to regularize their status was set on 15 December 2023. However, on 16 December 2023, the Egyptian government extended the grace period for an additional three months.

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Japan

[Indian students can secure Japan visa just by showing their student ID](#)

The Japanese authorities have confirmed that Indian students can obtain a visa for Japan simply by presenting their student ID.

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New Zealand

[New Zealand makes online applications for Pacific Visitor Visas permanent](#)

New Zealand Immigration has switched to online-only applications for Pacific Visitor Visas, including border exceptions and residence category applications, to improve processing times and application quality.

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Thailand

[Thailand introduces higher visa fees for New Zealand](#)

Starting from 19 March 2024, New Zealand nationals who plan to travel to Thailand will have to pay higher visa fees, with prices varying between US\$122 and US\$1,831 for multiple entry three-year valid visas.

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United Arab Emirates

[Dubai launches new 5-Year, multiple-visit visa for Indian travelers](#)

The UAE government has announced a new visa that allows for multiple entries into Dubai over a period of five years for Indian citizens. Visitors can stay for up to 90 days per visit, with the possibility of a one-time extension, allowing for a maximum of 180 days per year.

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Europe and Africa



Denmark

Denmark's working holiday permits available for Chileans & Argentinians

Denmark will issue up to 75 residence permits each for citizens of Chile and Argentina for a period from 1 March until 31 August 2024. The permits will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis.

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France

New Immigration Law

On 27 January 2024, the French government introduced a new immigration law. The key modifications related to employment primarily focus on two aspects: enhancing integration through work and language proficiency, as well as promoting adherence to the principles of the French Republic.

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Germany

Second stage of New Skilled Worker Immigration Law is effective

Germany's second stage of the Skilled Worker Immigration Law came into force on 1 March 2024, opening the way for many skilled foreign workers to settle in the country and work in their field of expertise.

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Hungary

Hungary extends residence permits amid New Immigration Law Implementation

Third-country nationals with residence permits and permanent residence permits from Hungary have had their document expiration date extended until 30 April due to the implementation of a new immigration law.

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Italy

Italian employers can start procedures to hire 151,000 foreign workers

Starting from 18 March 2024, Italian businesses can start their applications to hire non-EU workers within the 151,000 quotas set by the government in September 2023. Employers can now file their applications on 18, 21 and 25 March 2024, depending on the type of employment they are applying for.

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Moldova

Moldovans can enter EU with IDs only from next year

The Moldovan Public Services Agency announced that citizens of Moldova will be able to enter the territory of the European Union by only presenting their IDs from 2025.

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