



Immigration News Highlights

2025-08, 25 February 2025



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](#)

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Americas

United States

Interview waiver update

The Department of State announced the revision of the the eligibility criteria for a waiver of the nonimmigrant visa interview, empowering consular officers to potentially waive in-person interviews for specific applicant categories under the Immigration and Nationality Act section 222(h). These categories include those under certain visa symbols like A-1, G-1, NATO-1, applicants for diplomatic or official visas, and those with a recently expired visa of less than 12 months in the same category. To qualify, applicants must meet conditions such as applying in their country of nationality or residence, never having a previous visa refusal, and having no apparent disqualifications.

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Asia Pacific

Japan

Japan pre-entry Tuberculosis (TB) screening

Japanese immigration authorities introduced mandatory TB screening for nationals from specific countries seeking medium- to long-term stays in Japan. Initially applicable to Nepalese, Filipino, and Vietnamese nationals, the requirement will later extend to Chinese, Indonesian, and Myanmar's nationals. The screening pertains to those entering as "mid- to long-term residents," excluding reentry permit holders and individuals engaged in digital nomad activities. Certain groups, such as specified skilled foreign workers, nurses, and care workers under Economic Partnership Agreements, and foreign students in designated programs, are temporarily exempt from the screening mandate.

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New Zealand

Government announces additions to the straight to residence pathway

Immigration New Zealand announced that starting from 26 March 2025, primary teachers in New Zealand will be included in the straight to residence pathway on the Green List. This adjustment aims to alleviate primary teacher shortages, particularly in Auckland and Northland, by enabling them to apply for residency immediately upon receiving a job offer, even if they are offshore.

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Parent Resident Visa category update

Immigration New Zealand announced that it will issue up to 2,331 Parent Category Resident Visas to individuals with 'queue' Expression of Interest (EOI) for the current financial year until 30 June 2025. This represents an increase of 331 visas from the standard limit of 2,000 for this group, as agreed upon by the Minister of Immigration as a one-time adjustment. The remaining cap of 500 visas for those who submitted 'ballot' EOIs remains unchanged. Direct communication will be made with individuals whose 'queue' EOIs are selected for visa issuance in this financial year.

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Changes to the Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV)

Government of New Zealand announced that starting from 10 March 2025, New Zealand's AEWV will undergo changes following reforms announced aimed at benefiting industries facing recruitment challenges. The adjustments will no longer require employers to meet a median wage threshold when hiring migrants under the AEWV or seasonal Specific Purpose Work Visa policies. Instead, employers must adhere to the New Zealand minimum wage. Other modifications include reducing the work experience requirement for migrants to two years, enhancing engagement with the Ministry of Social Development, extending visa durations for less-skilled workers to three years, and raising the income threshold for supporting dependent children. Additionally, certain roles will be reclassified to align with the National Occupation List skill levels.

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South Korea

South Korea launches its e-Arrival Card system

Government of South Korea on 24 February 2025 launched electronic arrival card system for travelers heading to South Korea providing the option to complete an e-Arrival card online before their arrival, with the traditional paper form expected to be phased out by the end of the year. The e-Arrival Card will be accessible on the government portal. Until December 2025, passengers may choose between paper or electronic formats, with the online option becoming the sole method starting from 2026. This complimentary process must be done within 3 days before arrival and applies to all travelers, with few exceptions such as those with valid K-ETA electronic travel authorizations, registered South Korean residents, and airline crew members who are exempt from the e-Arrival Card requirement.

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United Arab Emirates

UAE launches new 90-day visa

UAE immigration authorities announced a new 90-day visa eliminating the requirement for a local sponsor. Suitable for tourists, business visitors, and families, this multiple-entry visa can be extended up to 180 days annually, offering increased flexibility for international visitors. With an online application process through GDRFA or ICA UAE platforms, applicants are charged AED700 along with a refundable AED2000 security deposit, with a processing time of 5-7 business days. The overstay penalty is set at AED50 per day.

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Europe and Africa

Czech Republic

Nationals of Taiwan allowed to work in Czechia without a work permit

Czech government declared that Taiwanese individuals will not be subjected to work permit requirements, placing them among countries like Australia, Japan, Canada, and others on the approved list. The authorities have clarified that the updated regulations will come into effect easing the process for Taiwanese nationals to work in Czechia without the need for additional permits.

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Denmark

Denmark opens 2025 working holiday visa applications for Argentinians & Chileans

Danish authorities announced that from 1 March 2025, Working Holiday quota for citizens of Argentina and Chile will be launched. A total of 150 residence permits will be made available to individuals from each country, with permits granted on a first-come, first-served basis. The program allows eligible Argentinians and Chileans to obtain residence permits, enabling them to stay in Denmark for up to a year for both travel and limited work opportunities. Appointments for the scheme will commence on 3 March 2025 in Santiago for Chilean citizens and on 5 March 2025 in Buenos Aires for Argentinians. The quota will be split into two periods, with each period accommodating 75 residence permits for nationals of Argentina and Chile, respectively. This allocation will run from March to August for the first period and from September to February 2026 for the second period, totaling 150 residence permits annually for each nationality under the Working Holiday program in Denmark.

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Hungary

Hungary introduces cultural knowledge exam for permanent residency applicants

Hungarian authorities announced that third-country nationals aiming to secure a National Residence Card or European Union Residence Card in Hungary must pass a Hungarian cultural knowledge exam as part of the application process. The updated regulations mandate applicants to demonstrate basic general knowledge about Hungary, showcasing their understanding of the country's social coexistence norms. Those who do not pass the exam after three attempts will not have the opportunity to retake it, aligning with the authorities' emphasis on the importance of applicants showcasing awareness and comprehension of Hungarian societal values.

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Kenya

Kenya's new visa policy

Kenya's government introduced a multiple-entry Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) to facilitate entry for cruise tourists arriving at the Port of Mombasa. The introduction of the multiple-entry eTA eliminates the need for repeated authorizations for cruise passengers exploring Mombasa, with the overall goal of driving growth in cruise tourism in Kenya.

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Namibia

Namibia to launch new visa system in March 2025

Government of Namibia introduce a new visa system, scheduled to launch on 3 March 2025, with full implementation set for 1 April 2025. The updated visa regime will require citizens from 33 countries that to apply for visas when entering Namibia. The user-friendly electronic platform will enable travelers to apply for visas conveniently, promoting a smoother and more efficient entry process. Details regarding the countries affected, visa costs, and designated points of entry have been revealed and issuance available at airports such as Windhoek and Walvis Bay.

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Poland

Poland to launch special system for visa appointments

Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the implementation of a new system aimed at preventing visa appointment exploitation by intermediaries using biometrics for applicant verification. Initially tested in selected countries before wider deployment, the special IT system seeks to ensure that only visa applicants can secure appointments, effectively curbing the involvement of intermediaries. The introduction of this system will also bring additional electronic services to verify the identity of individuals seeking appointments, further enhancing the security and integrity of the visa application process.

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Spain

Moroccans can renew Schengen visas at rabat Centre without an appointment

Spanish immigration authorities announced that from 24 February 2025, applicants from Morocco seeking to renew their visas, including certain categories such as student visas, will no

longer be required to schedule appointments. This modification also extends to individuals applying for Spanish Schengen visas at the Rabat consulate in Morocco, streamlining the renewal process by eliminating the appointment booking requirement. The initiative, aimed at simplifying and enhancing convenience for Moroccan visa applicants, allows for both online and in-person submission of renewal applications at the designated Centre.

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United Kingdom

India Young Professionals Scheme visa

UK immigration announced the closure of the first 2025 India Young Professionals Scheme ballot. Indian citizens eligible for the scheme can enter the ballot by submitting required personal information and passport details, with successful entries selected randomly. Results will be communicated via email within two weeks of the ballot closure. Entry to the ballot is free, but individuals should only apply if they intend to proceed with the GBP298 visa application and meet all necessary criteria.

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Thomas Wolf

Head of KPMG's Global
Immigration Network

T: +49 30 530 199-300

E: twolf@kpmg-law.com

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