



Immigration News Highlights

2026 - 37, 16 September 2026



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](#)

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Americas

Canada

[Canada introduces temporary study flexibility for eligible work permit holders](#)

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) announced on 09 September 2026 a temporary measure allowing eligible work permit holders in Canada to study for up to six months without obtaining a study permit. The measure is intended to help temporary workers, including those in occupations such as skilled trades, healthcare and technical services, acquire in-demand skills while continuing to work. Eligible work permit holders will be permitted to pursue short-term licensing, education and training opportunities for up to six months or until their work permit expires, whichever occurs first. The temporary policy will remain in effect until 31 December 2027 and does not create a new immigration pathway to Canada. IRCC stated that the measure supports economic growth, workforce needs and public service capacity while maintaining the government's objective of reducing the temporary resident population to below five percent by the end of 2027.

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[Canada issues invitations under Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program \(MPNP\) skilled worker and francophone selections](#)

The Manitoba government issued invitations on 10 September 2026 through multiple Skilled Worker and targeted selection streams. The draw issued 793 Letters of Advice to Apply, including 233 invitations to candidates employed in Manitoba health occupations, 11 invitations under a Francophone selection, and 508 invitations to candidates who, or whose spouse, completed post-secondary education in Manitoba. An additional 41 invitations were issued to candidates who had been directly invited through strategic recruitment initiatives, including employer, ethnocultural, francophone, regional community and temporary public policy pathways. The lowest-ranked candidate invited under the post-secondary education selection had a ranking score of 825. Of the total invitations issued, 272 were granted to candidates who declared a valid Express Entry profile number and job seeker validation code.

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United States

[United States reached H-2B cap for first half of fiscal year \(FY\) 2027](#)

US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced on 11 September 2026 that it had received enough petitions to meet the congressionally mandated H-2B visa cap for the first half of FY 2027. USCIS confirmed that 04 September 2026 was the final receipt date for new cap-subject H-2B petitions requesting employment start dates before 01 April 2027. The agency stated that any new cap-subject petitions received after that date for employment beginning before 01 April 2027 will be rejected. USCIS also encouraged US workers, H-2B workers, and other stakeholders to report suspected fraud, abuse, or violations through its online tip form. The update applies only to cap-subject H-2B petitions for the first half of FY 2027.

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[United States court postpones fixed admission periods for student, exchange visitor and foreign media visas](#)

The United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts ruled on 14 September 2026 to postpone the effective date of the Department of Homeland Security's final rule establishing fixed admission periods for F, J and I nonimmigrant visa holders. The rule, which was scheduled to take effect on 15 September 2026, would have limited F and J visa holders to admission periods of up to four years and I visa holders to 240 days, with extensions requiring government approval. The court found that the plaintiffs were likely to succeed in showing that the rule was arbitrary and capricious under the Administrative Procedure Act because the department had not adequately assessed costs, considered alternatives, addressed significant public comments or demonstrated a rational connection to its objectives. The court granted nationwide preliminary relief, keeping the existing duration-of-status framework in place while the legal challenge continues. The court did not vacate the rule and denied other requested relief without prejudice, allowing those requests to be renewed later.

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[United States launches Trusted Traveler mobile application for traveler program management and airport arrivals](#)

US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced on 09 September 2026 the launch of a new Trusted Traveler mobile application that combines application management and Global

Entry arrival confirmation services into a single platform. The mobile application enables travelers to manage applications and memberships for Global Entry, NEXUS, Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection (SENTRI), and Free and Secure Trade (FAST), including membership updates, interview scheduling, and renewals. The application also allows Global Entry members to confirm their international arrivals with CBP when arriving at participating US airports. The new application is supported at 85 airports and multiple preclearance locations, and existing users of previous CBP trusted traveler applications can transfer their profiles and membership information using their current credentials. The update is intended to streamline traveler interactions with Trusted Traveler Programs and enhance the travel experience through a single official mobile platform.

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United States proposes eliminating 60-day grace period for employment-based nonimmigrant workers

US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) proposed on 11 September 2026 to eliminate the discretionary grace period of up to 60 days available following the cessation of qualifying employment for certain nonimmigrant workers and their dependents. The proposal would affect individuals in E-1, E-2, E-3, H-1B, H-1B1, L-1, O-1 and TN classifications, requiring them to depart the United States immediately after their employment or qualifying activity ends unless otherwise authorized to remain. Removing the grace period would also limit the time currently available to seek new qualifying employment or apply for another immigration status without departing from the country. The Department of Homeland Security stated that the proposed change would align maintenance of nonimmigrant status with the employment or activity underlying the visa classification and reduce administrative burdens. Public comments on the proposed rule may be submitted until 10 November 2026.

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Asia Pacific

New Zealand

New Zealand expands Active Investor Plus Growth category to support Build to Rent investments

Immigration New Zealand announced on 08 September 2026 that the Active Investor Plus (AIP) Growth category will be expanded to allow investor migrants to invest in approved managed funds supporting Build to Rent developments from December 2026. The update provides Growth category applicants with an additional investment option while maintaining the program's focus on business growth, innovation, and productivity. The minimum investment threshold will remain NZD5 million, and all existing Active Investor Plus eligibility requirements will continue to apply. Build to Rent investments will be permitted only through approved managed funds, while direct investment in Build to Rent developments will not be allowed. The change is intended to attract investment in New Zealand's rental housing sector and support the delivery of new purpose-built rental homes.

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[New Zealand introduces Short-Term Graduate Work Visa for eligible international graduates](#)

Immigration New Zealand announced on 10 September 2026 that a new Short-Term Graduate Work Visa will be introduced from 16 November 2026 to better align graduate pathways with the country's skills needs. The visa will provide eligible international graduates with six months of open work rights, allowing them to seek employment and potentially transition to an Accredited Employer Work Visa. Applicants must hold an eligible New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework Level five to seven qualification that does not qualify them for a Post-Study Work Visa and must apply within three months of their student visa expiring. Additional requirements include demonstrating access to NZD5,000 for living expenses, meeting health requirements, and not having previously held a Short-Term Graduate Work Visa or Post-Study Work Visa. The visa can only be granted once and does not allow holders to support partners for work visas or children for Dependent Child Student Visas.

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[New Zealand extends Post-Study Work Visa eligibility for graduate diploma holders](#)

Immigration New Zealand announced on 10 September 2026 that eligibility for the Post-Study Work Visa will be expanded from 16 November 2026 to include graduates who complete a New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework Level seven graduate diploma and hold a bachelor's degree obtained in New Zealand or overseas. Eligible applicants must complete the full qualification through full-time study in New Zealand and cannot rely on transferred credits, cross-crediting, or recognition of prior learning to meet the requirement. Graduate diploma holders meeting the criteria may receive an open work visa for up to one year, while existing provisions for eligible Postgraduate Diploma and master's degree graduates remain unchanged. The update also confirms that Post-Study Work Visa holders may continue to support partners and dependent children for eligible visa categories, subject to meeting relevant requirements. Applicants will be able to submit applications through Enhanced Immigration Online from 16 November 2026.

[Read more](#)

[New Zealand implements changes to Active Investor Plus approved investment requirements](#)

Immigration New Zealand announced on 16 September 2026 that changes to managed fund and direct investment offerings under the Active Investor Plus (AIP) Visa will take effect on 28 September 2026. The update introduces new investment plan requirements for managed funds, requiring them to provide and maintain clear investment deployment strategies to strengthen investor confidence. The changes also establish a six-month stand-down period for managed funds and direct investments whose applications are declined before they can reapply. In addition, Invest New Zealand will receive enhanced powers to suspend or revoke approved investments that no longer meet program requirements, while new guidance will clarify the distinction between Growth and Balanced investment categories. The measures are intended to improve investment quality, provide greater certainty for investors and fund managers, and support New Zealand's economic growth objectives.

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Thailand

[Thailand implements revised visa-free and visa on arrival entry rules for international travelers](#)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand announced that revised visa-free and Visa on Arrival entry rules will take effect on 15 September 2026, replacing the previous 60-day visa exemption framework. Under the new rules, nationals of 60 countries and territories, including

the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Australia, will be eligible for visa-free entry for tourism purposes for up to 30 days, with possible extensions subject to immigration approval. The reforms also limit visa-free entry to tourism activities, reintroduce restrictions on land-border entries, and reduce Visa on Arrival eligibility to nationals of Azerbaijan, Belarus and Serbia for stays of up to 15 days. In addition, nationals of 21 countries that previously benefited from visa-free access will be required to obtain a visa before travelling to Thailand. The updated measures are intended to streamline Thailand's entry framework while maintaining existing bilateral visa-waiver arrangements.

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Vietnam

[Vietnam implements Apostille Convention and replaces consular legalization requirements for eligible foreign documents](#)

The Embassy of Vietnam in the United States announced on 10 September 2026 that Vietnam will implement the Apostille Convention from 11 September 2026, replacing consular legalization requirements for eligible public documents exchanged between Vietnam and participating Convention members. Under the new process, public documents issued in the US and intended for use in Vietnam will only require a valid Apostille and will no longer need consular legalization by the Vietnamese Embassy. The embassy also confirmed that it will stop accepting applications for the consular legalization of US public documents from 11 September 2026. Certain document categories and jurisdictions remain subject to existing consular legalization requirements where the Convention is not yet in force with Vietnam. Documents legalized before 11 September 2026 will remain valid and do not need to be reprocessed under the Apostille system.

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Europe and Africa

Denmark

[Denmark launches digital application process for accompanying family residence permits](#)

The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration (SIRI) announced on 14 September 2026 the launch of a digital MF4 application form for individuals applying for a residence permit as accompanying family members of persons who have obtained permanent residence based on work or study in Denmark. The new digital process allows applicants to submit first-time and extension applications online and provides access to a platform where they can track ongoing applications and view completed applications for up to 30 days after submission. Printable MF4 forms will continue to be accepted temporarily, but applicants will be required to use the digital MF4 from 14 October 2026. Applications submitted using the printable MF4 after that date will generally be rejected. The update also replaces the use of MF1 and MF2 forms for eligible accompanying family applications linked to persons holding permanent residence or Danish citizenship obtained through work or study.

[Read more](#)

Denmark updates authority responsible for assessing non-state-approved educational programs

The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration (SIRI) announced on 15 September 2026 that the unit serving as the secretariat to the Danish Accreditation Council will assume responsibility for issuing advisory statements on non-state-approved educational programs used in student residence permit applications. The change replaces the previous arrangement under the Danish Evaluation Institute and does not alter the eligibility requirements for obtaining a Danish student residence permit. Applicants seeking residence permits based on programs offered by state-approved educational institutions that have not themselves received state approval will continue to require a valid advisory statement confirming the program meets acceptable academic quality standards. Advisory statements issued before 15 September 2026 will remain valid for their designated period and can continue to be used in residence permit applications. The update follows the closure of the Danish Evaluation Institute on 01 July 2026 and is intended to ensure continuity in the assessment process for non-state-approved educational programs.

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Denmark temporarily extends biometric enrolment deadline for residence permit applicants

The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration (SIRI) announced a temporary extension of the deadline for recording biometric information due to increased demand for biometric appointment bookings. Under the update, applicants now have four weeks instead of the usual two weeks to provide their fingerprints and facial photograph after submitting a residence permit application. SIRI advised applicants to book appointments as soon as possible and to cancel unused appointments to make them available to other applicants. The temporary measure is intended to ease appointment pressures while ensuring applicants can complete the biometric enrolment requirement. SIRI also clarified that biometric enrolment and re-entry permit services relating to the Danish Immigration Service must be handled directly by that authority.

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