



Immigration News Highlights

2024-09, 27 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](#)

[Asia Pacific](#)

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Americas

United States

Adjustment to premium processing fees takes effect

US Citizenship and Immigration Services' new inflation-adjusted premium processing fees have taken effect, increasing the filing fee for Form I-907, Request for Premium Processing. USCIS published a final rule announcing the change.

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United States

US extends visa restrictions for transportation operators facilitating irregular migration

The US State Department has introduced a new visa restriction towards transportation operators that facilitate irregular migration around the world and to the US. This new measure targets owners, executives, and senior officials of charter flight, ground, and maritime transportation companies that offer transportation services primarily designated for individuals aiming to migrate irregularly to the US territory.

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Asia Pacific

Malaysia

Malaysia opens new post-study visa option for degree graduates

Malaysia introduced a package of new visa settings designed to make it easier for visitors and students to enter the country. The Visa Liberalisation Plan, eases visa requirements in a range of areas, including, a 30-day visa exemption for visitors from China and India.

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New Zealand

New Zealand to streamline services for student visas

New Zealand is working to improve student visa processing by increasing the number of staff processing such requests and upgrading the equipment for these processes. However, the authorities advise applicants to check their requests before submitting them if they meet the requirements.

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Turkey

Turkey Extends Visa-Free Stay to 6 Months for Kyrgyzstan Citizens

The Turkish government has decided to extend the visa-free regime for citizens of Kyrgyzstan for up to six months. Previously, Kyrgyzstanis were permitted to enter Türkiye visa-free for up to three months.

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Europe and Africa

Austria

Austria & US introduce new working holiday program for young professionals & students

Austria and the US have introduced a new Working Holiday Program, offering young Austrian and US citizens the opportunity to work and explore each other's countries for up to 12 months.

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Croatia

Croatia to fund language learning courses for foreign workers

Educational courses in the Croatian language are being offered across various sectors, including construction, tourism, hospitality, and trade. Funding primarily comes from employers, with additional support from the local community and specific investments like Zagreb's allocation of EUR150,000 for language education.

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Greece

Greece introduces three-tiered Real Estate Price Zones for its Golden Visa Program

Greek authorities have announced an increase in the minimum investment requirement for the Golden Visa Program, with prices varying across different zones. The new requirements range from EUR800,000 in Zone A, EUR400,000 – 500,000 in Zone B and EUR250,000 in Zone C.

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Greece

Greece introduces fast-track visa for Turkish tourists to 10 Greek islands

Travelers from Turkey will be able to visit 10 Greek islands with a fast-track temporary visa. The on-the-spot, seven-day visa will facilitate access to islands near the Turkish coast and historically popular with Turkish visitors.

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Kenya

Kenya drops Electronic Travel Authorization fee for several other countries

Kenya has decided to lift the requirement to pay US\$30 for the Electronic Travel Authorization for several other countries.

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Kosovo

Kosovo citizens can travel visa-free to UAE

Kosovo passport holders enjoy visa-free travel to the United Arab Emirates following the signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries which enters into force on 22 February 2024.

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Netherlands

Visa-exempt nationals may stay for 90 days beyond their residence permit

Dutch government has announced that anyone with a visa-exempt nationality is allowed to remain in the Netherlands for 90 days after their regular residence permit expires starting from 15 February 2024.

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Spain

Senegalese travelling through Spain's airports now required to obtain transit visas

Passport holders of Senegal are now officially required to apply for a transit visa when planning to reach a non-EU country through Spain's airport.

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United Kingdom

New UK rules prohibit care workers' families from joining them

The UK Government announced people who travel to the United Kingdom to work in the social care sector are not permitted to bring their children and partners on their visas.

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