



Immigration News Highlights

2026 - 41, 13 October 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

Argentina

Argentina announced investment thresholds for citizenship by investment program applications

Argentina's government announced the investment requirements for its Citizenship by Investment Program and indicated that applications are expected to open in the fourth quarter of 2026. The program establishes two investment options: a US\$350,000 non-refundable contribution to the National Treasury or an US\$800,000 subscription to government security created for the program. Additional investment amounts were also announced for eligible family members, including spouses and children. Applicants will be subject to identity, security, immigration, and source-of-funds reviews before citizenship can be granted. As of 08 October 2026, authorities had not confirmed the application launch date, filing platform, required documentation, or payment procedures.

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Canada

Canada updated Ontario Workforce Priority (OWP) Stream earnings history scoring

Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program (OINP) announced on 07 October 2026 an update to the OWP Stream Expression of Interest (EOI) scoring system relating to the Canadian work experience earnings history factor. The update follows changes implemented on 05 October 2026, under which registrants who earned CAD80,000 or more in a single year within the previous five years, as verified by a Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) Notice of Assessment, are awarded 10 points for this scoring factor. OINP confirmed that the revised scoring criteria have been automatically applied to all existing EOIs in the system. As a result, current registrants do not need to update their profiles or take any action through the OINP e-Filing Portal for their scores to be recalculated. The change may enhance the ranking of eligible candidates with qualifying Canadian earnings histories under the OWP stream selection process.

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United States

United States proposed Optional Practical Training fees for foreign students

The US Department of Homeland Security announced on 07 October 2026 a proposed rule to introduce new fees for F-1 students seeking Optional Practical Training authorization. Under the proposal, schools would be required to pay a fee of US\$70,000 for an initial Optional Practical Training application and US\$30,000 for subsequent Optional Practical Training applications before students can apply for employment authorization. The Department stated that the proposal aims to address fraud and abuse, strengthen program integrity, and increase oversight of the Optional Practical Training program. The proposed rule is subject to public consultation, with comments accepted between 08 October 2026 and 09 November 2026 before any final decision is made.

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United States implemented updated EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program fees to support processing and integrity measures

US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced on 29 September 2026 updated fees for the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program to ensure full cost recovery for program administration and compliance activities. The update is intended to support statutory processing time objectives and strengthen program integrity measures, including audits, site visits, compliance reviews, and fraud prevention initiatives. USCIS stated that the fee adjustments implement requirements under the EB-5 Reform and Integrity Act of 2022, which directed the agency to establish program-specific fees that cover operational costs. The new fee structure is scheduled to take effect on 30 November 2026 following the completion of the rulemaking process initiated in October 2025.

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United States implemented revised filing deadline rules for visa and green card applications

US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced on 23 September 2026 revised guidance on filing deadlines, with the changes taking effect on 23 October 2026. Under the updated policy, certain paper applications whose deadlines fall on weekends, or federal holidays may still qualify for submission by the next business day, while online filings will not receive the same flexibility. USCIS also clarified that age-based eligibility requirements,

including those affecting some green card applicants and Special Immigrant Juvenile petitions, are not eligible for next-business-day extensions when an applicant reaches the age limit on a non-working day. The guidance further highlights that H-1B workers should not rely on weekend or holiday extensions for filings linked to the expiration of authorized stay. Applicants and employers are advised to review filing methods and eligibility-related deadlines carefully to avoid adverse immigration consequences.

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Asia Pacific

Australia

[Australia updated health insurance guidance for temporary visa holders](#)

Australia's Department of Home Affairs announced on 13 October 2026 updated guidance on adequate health insurance requirements for visa applicants and temporary visa holders. The update clarifies healthcare obligations for individuals who are not eligible for Australia's Medicare system and may be responsible for their healthcare costs while in the country. The revised guidance explains how appropriate private health insurance can help visa holders meet relevant visa conditions and manage unexpected medical expenses. The Department of Home Affairs also published a new factsheet providing practical information on health insurance requirements for Australia.

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Bahrain

[Bahrain implemented temporary work authorization arrangements for foreign workers](#)

Bahrain's Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) announced new rules allowing foreign workers to temporarily work for another employer for up to 90 days without transferring their existing work permit. The arrangement requires LMRA approval, the worker's written consent, and agreement from both employers, with applications submitted through the authority's Expat Management System. The reform also permits employers to deploy foreign workers to other establishments within the same corporate group, subject to applicable conditions and Bahrainization requirements. The LMRA stated that the change is intended to provide businesses with greater workforce flexibility while maintaining oversight of temporary employment arrangements. The new framework enables employers to address short-term staffing needs using eligible foreign workers already employed in Bahrain.

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New Zealand

[New Zealand expanded Funds Transfer Scheme provider options for international students](#)

Immigration New Zealand announced in October 2026 that eligible international students studying at New Zealand universities and polytechnics can use Bank of New Zealand under the Funds Transfer Scheme. The update provides students with an additional provider choice, alongside ANZ, for transferring and holding funds during their studies in New Zealand. Bank of New Zealand will offer the scheme only to students attending universities and polytechnics, while students at private training establishments may continue to use ANZ. The scheme provides a secure way for eligible international students from China, India, Nepal, the

Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam to transfer and access funds while studying in New Zealand.

[Read more](#)

New Zealand simplified accommodation standards for Recognized Seasonal Employer (RSE) workers

Immigration New Zealand announced on 13 October 2026 that accommodation standards for the RSE scheme will be simplified by replacing 47 existing standards with 15 core standards. The changes are intended to provide employers with clearer and more flexible requirements while maintaining accommodation protections for RSE workers. Under the new framework, accommodation must remain clean, safe, hygienic and suitable for the number of workers staying on site, and must meet relevant building, council and fire safety requirements. The updated standards also introduce revised bedroom space requirements and require accommodation to meet Healthy Homes Standards as far as practicable. The new standards are expected to take effect in the second half of 2027, with a transition period and additional guidance provided before implementation.

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Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia implemented family visa processing alongside work permit applications for skilled expatriates

Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Interior announced on 06 October 2026 that skilled expatriate heads of household may process entry visas for eligible family members at the same time as their work visa applications. Eligible dependents include spouses, sons under the age of 25, and unmarried daughters. Under the new arrangement, family members can obtain entry visas concurrently with the completion of the principal applicant's work visa process. Residency procedures for dependents will be finalized after arrival in the Kingdom in accordance with applicable regulations and guidelines. The measure was introduced in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development as part of efforts to enhance quality of life for residents.

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Europe and Africa

Finland

Finland announced citizenship test requirements under amended Citizenship Act

Finnish Immigration Service announced on 09 October 2026 further information on amendments to the Citizenship Act that will take effect on 01 January 2027. The amendments introduce a civic knowledge requirement for citizenship applicants, which can generally be met by passing a new citizenship test or through specified educational qualifications. A transitional period will apply from 01 January 2027 to 28 February 2027, with the new requirement applying to citizenship applications submitted on or after 01 March 2027. The Finnish Immigration Service will publish self-study learning materials for the test at the turn of 2026/2027, and test sessions are planned to be held several times each year at locations across Finland.

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Hungary

Hungary updated notification procedures for rejected residence permit applications

Hungary's National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing announced on 12 October 2026 guidance regarding the notification of decisions on residence permit applications submitted through Hungarian diplomatic missions. The update confirms that decisions rejecting or terminating applications for residence permits, replacement permits, permit renewals, or extensions of certain national settlement permits will be communicated through a public notice process when postal tracking to a foreign address is not possible. Applicants will also be informed through the relevant diplomatic mission that a decision has been made and that legal deadlines are linked to the public notice date. The guidance reiterates that appeals against rejected or terminated residence permit decisions must be submitted within the applicable statutory deadlines following notification.

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Kenya

Kenya enabled separate purchase of mandatory travel insurance for Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) applications

Kenya Insurance Regulation Authority's eCitizen platform announced on 07 October 2026 that travelers can purchase the mandatory travel health insurance separately before submitting an ETA application. The insurance purchased through the eCitizen portal is automatically recognized by the ETA system, eliminating the need for applicants to manually enter insurance details during the authorization process. The update also provides an option for travelers who obtained an ETA before the insurance requirement was introduced to purchase the required coverage separately. On the same date, the High Court upheld the mandatory travel insurance scheme, removing the legal uncertainty that had suspended the program in August. Authorities have not yet clarified whether a single policy can cover multiple entries during its three-month validity period or whether foreign-issued travel insurance can satisfy the requirement.

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United Kingdom

United Kingdom implemented contactless e-Gate technology to streamline airport arrivals

UK Home Office and Border Force announced on 06 October 2026 the rollout of a new contactless e-Gate system that enables eligible passengers to pass through airport border controls without presenting their passports. Technology uses facial comparison to verify a traveler's identity against verified immigration, travel and passport records before standard border security checks are completed. Testing showed that the new system can process passengers up to 25 percent faster than existing passport-based e-Gate procedures while maintaining border security requirements. The phased implementation begins at East Midlands Airport for British citizens and will expand to additional airports and eligible nationalities over the coming months. All UK airport e-Gates are expected to be upgraded to the contactless system by early 2027.

[Read more](#)

United Kingdom updated European Union (EU) Settlement Scheme paper application rules for certain families and carers

UK Visas and Immigration announced on 08 October 2026 updates to the EU Settlement Scheme paper application process in line with changes to the Immigration Rules. The update allows certain children and their primary carers to retain pre-settled status so that children can complete their education in the United Kingdom. The guidance also confirms the circumstances in which applicants may continue to use a paper application form instead of the online process, including specific family members and primary carer categories. Eligible applicants must obtain the relevant form through the EU Settlement Resolution Centre and submit their application and supporting documents to the Home Office by post.

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United Kingdom consolidated immigration rules across entry, stay, protection and work routes

The UK Home Office published the latest version of archived Immigration Rules on 12 October 2026, consolidating provisions governing entry, permission to stay, family routes, work routes, study routes, asylum procedures, and settlement pathways. The rules set out application validity requirements, suitability and refusal grounds, documentary evidence standards, and conditions attached to immigration permission. The document also incorporates requirements across multiple immigration appendices, including Visitor, Student, Skilled Worker, Graduate, Global Business Mobility, and family-related routes. In addition, it preserves transitional arrangements for certain legacy immigration categories.

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