



GLOBAL IMMIGRATION TRENDS – July 2025

Introduction

This global migration summary outlines the latest updates and trends in immigration policies, emphasizing changes across different regions in the world and their implications for Nigerians that intend to apply for immigrant and non-immigrant visas.

Asia

Saudi Arabia

SAUDI ARABIA RESUMES WORK VISA QUOTA ISSUANCE

In May 2025, Saudi Arabia suspended the issuance of block work visa quotas for nationals of fourteen (14) countries, including Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen. These quotas allow companies to hire a specific number of foreign workers under a pre-approved system.

The suspension, coincided with preparations for the annual Hajj season, and was largely prompted by concerns over the misuse of work visas by nationals of the listed countries to enter the Kingdom for pilgrimage purposes.

Following the conclusion of the Hajj pilgrimage, Saudi authorities lifted the suspension on June 12, 2025. Consequently, block visa requests for the affected nationals can now be processed again. Additionally, workers holding valid work entry visas who had not yet traveled can now enter Saudi Arabia and proceed with their residency and onboarding process.

SAUDI ARABIA LAUNCHES VISA EXTENSION FOR EXPIRED VISIT VISAS

The General Directorate of Passports in Saudi Arabia has introduced a new initiative to ease the final exit process for individuals holding expired visit visas with penalties. Effective June 26, 2025, until July 25, 2025, individuals with expired visit visas regardless of their designation may apply for a thirty (30) day visa extension. This grace period does not extend to valid or canceled visit visas.

To apply for the extension, applicants must pay applicable fees and clear all outstanding fees or penalties linked to the expired visa in line with current regulations. Requests are to be submitted exclusively through the "Tawasul Service" on the Ministry of Interior's Absher platform, Saudi Arabia's central online portal for public services.

This initiative is expected to improve compliance and streamline administrative processing for overstayed visitors, and is valid for the period of thirty (30) days following which overstay and late departures will revert to the usual overstay penalties and no further extensions will be granted. Individuals remaining in the Kingdom beyond this period without regularization remain illegally and may face increased legal consequences..

Find more here: <https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2347755>

China

CHINA EXPANDS VISA-FREE TRAVEL THROUGH UNILATERAL AND BILATERAL POLICIES

Effective from June 1, 2025, to May 31, 2026, China has granted visa-free entry to nationals of Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, and Uruguay for up to thirty (30) days.

These eligible travelers may enter China for tourism, business, family visits, exchanges, or transit without the need to obtain visa beforehand. The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed the initiative as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen ties with Latin America and the Caribbean, and to attract more international visitors to the country.

In addition to this unilateral policy, China continues to expand its visa-free network through bilateral agreements. As of June 9, 2025 and until June 8, 2026., nationals of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, and Bahrain are permitted thirty-day (30-day) visa-free visits to China. On June 12, Indonesia was added to China's two hundred and forty-hour (240-hour) visa-free transit list.

Furthermore, China has signed mutual visa exemption agreements with Uzbekistan (effective June 1, 2025) and Azerbaijan (effective July 16, 2025), allowing citizens of both countries to stay in China for up to thirty (30) days per visit, with a maximum of ninety (90) days in any one hundred and eighty (180) day period. However, for longer stays or visits for purposes such as work, study, or journalism, the appropriate visas must be obtained in advance.

Philippines

PHILIPPINES GRANTS CONDITIONAL VISA-FREE ENTRY TO INDIAN NATIONALS HOLDING AJACSSUK VISAS OR PERMITS

The Philippine government has introduced a visa-free entry policy for Indian nationals holding valid and current visas or permanent residence permits issued by any of the following countries: Australia, Japan, America (U.S.), Canada, Schengen Area states, Singapore, or the United Kingdom - collectively referred to as AJACSSUK. This initiative is grounded in Section 3 of the Philippine Immigration Act (Commonwealth Act No. 613 as amended) and aims to promote tourism and streamline access for pre-vetted travelers.

Under this policy, eligible Indian tourists may enter the Philippines without a visa for an initial stay of up to fourteen (14) days, through any major international airport, secondary international hub (SIH), or seaport including cruise ship terminals. This visa-free stay may be extended once for an additional seven (7) days, allowing a maximum stay of twenty-one (21) days.

To qualify, Indian nationals must:

- Hold a valid AJACSSUK visa or permanent residence permit;
- Possess a passport valid for at least six (6) months beyond the intended stay;
- Present a return or onward ticket to another destination country; and
- Possess no derogatory record with the Bureau of Immigration.

Travelers must also comply with all health, quarantine, vaccination, and testing requirements in place at the time of entry.

Find more:

<https://newdelhipe.dfa.gov.ph/index.php/newsroom/announcements/951-ajacssuk>

Japan

JAPAN LAUNCH ELECTRONIC VISA SYSTEM FOR PRE-SELECTED COUNTRIES

On May 23, 2025, Japan launched an Electronic Visa (e-visa) system for single short-term stays for ordinary passport holders of selected countries.





Eligible applicants include nationals and residents of Australia, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan, United Kingdom, U.S.A. (except those exempt from short-term visas), Chinese resident in China, Vietnamese resident in Vietnam and participate in a packaged tour organized by designated travel agencies, citizens and residents of Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Macau, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and United Arab Emirates except those exempt from short-term visas and residents/citizens of Korea within jurisdiction of the Consulate General of Japan in Jeju.

The e-visa grants a single-entry, short-term stay for tourism purposes, generally valid for a period of up to ninety (90) days. Eligible applicants from China will be issued a period of fifteen (15) days or thirty (30) days, while those from Vietnam will be issued a period of fifteen (15) days.

Applicants who intend to visit Japan for other purposes or longer stay cannot utilize the e-visa option and will have to submit their application to the Japanese Embassy, Consulate General or Consular office with jurisdiction over their place of residence.

Find more here: https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/visaonline.html

JAPAN TO LAUNCH JESTA: NEW ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION SYSTEM FOR VISA-EXEMPT TRAVELERS

Japan has introduced the Japan Electronic System for Travel Authorization (JESTA)- a digital pre-screening system for foreign nationals entering Japan without a visa. The JESTA will apply to citizens of seventy-one (71) visa-exempt countries and territories, who will be required to obtain electronic travel authorization prior to departure. The system aims to enhance immigration security while facilitating faster entry procedures as inbound tourism continues to surge.

JESTA is set to be launched by the end of Japan's 2028 fiscal year. The system is designed to pre-screen travelers from countries including the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Singapore, Australia, Brazil, Germany, South Korea, and many others. The announcement comes amid record-high visitor numbers and growing domestic concerns over overstays and immigration compliance. Once in place, JESTA will serve as a digital gatekeeper for Japan, improving border control while preserving smooth travel for compliant visitors.

Find more here:

[JESTA JAPAN | Japan Electronic System for Travel Authorization Launch 2028 | JESTA](#)

Israel

ISRAEL ANNOUNCES THREE MONTHS VISA EXTENSION FOR HOLDERS OF SELECT VISA CATEGORIES

On June 12, 2025, the Population and Immigration Authority of Israel announced an automatic visa extension for foreign nationals legally residing in the country. All eligible visas that were valid on that date will remain valid until September 30, 2025, without requiring in-person renewal or additional documentation. This measure is designed to reduce administrative pressure and ensure uninterrupted legal status for foreign residents and visitors.

The extension applies to holders of the following visa categories: B/1 (general work visa), B/2 (tourist visa), B/4 (volunteer visa), A/1 (temporary resident visa), A/2 (student visa, excluding agricultural trainees), A/3 (clergy visa), A/4 (companion visa), A/5 (temporary resident visa), and DCL permits used in family reunification and humanitarian cases. All affected foreign nationals may continue their stay in Israel legally until the end of September 2025, with no further action required.

Find more here: <https://www.gov.il/en/pages/news-am-kelavi-visa-extension-17625>

United Arab Emirates

STRICTER VISA POLICY FOR NIGERIANS

Dubai Immigration authorities announced that all transit visa applications from Nigerian nationals will no longer be processed thereby closing travel options connecting through the United Arab Emirates (UAE). In addition, the policy also introduced new eligibility requirements for tourist visa applicants - any applicant within the age of eighteen (18) to (45) years who is travelling alone is not eligible for the tourist visa.

Furthermore, applicants of forty-five (45) years and above must provide one Nigerian personal bank statement covering the period of six (6) months prior to the application date, with each month's end balance reflecting a minimum of Ten Thousand United States Dollars (USD 10,000) or its naira equivalent.

Gulf Countries - UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNIFIED TOURIST VISA FOR THE GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL (GCC)

The unified tourist visa for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has received approval and is set to be implemented by the member nations by the end of 2025. The visa aims to streamline tourism across the six GCC member nations — the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, and Kuwait thereby eliminating the need for different visa applications, so tourists will be able to enter any one of the GCC countries and travel freely throughout the region without the need for multiple visa applications (similar to the Schengen visa system).

Further details about eligibility and the application process for the unified GCC visa are expected to be released closer to the implementation date.

Oceania

New Zealand

IMMIGRATION POLICY REFORMS TO STUDENT VISA WORK RIGHTS

The Immigration New Zealand (INZ) has announced some changes to its immigration rules relating to international education in the country. Under the new rules, the number of hours eligible international students holding a student visa can work was increased from twenty (20) hours to twenty-five (25) hours a week. Furthermore, all tertiary students on approved exchange or Study Abroad programmes are now eligible for in-study work rights including those studying one (1) semester courses. Students who change educational institution or lower the level of study will now need to apply for a new student visa and no longer a variation of conditions.

These changes will take effect from November 3, 2025, and applies to all new student visas granted thereafter even if the application was submitted earlier.

Students who current hold student visa with a twenty (20)-hour work limit and want to work up to twenty-five (25) hours, will need to apply for a variation of conditions or a new student visa and the relevant immigrations fees will apply.

Students whose student visas already permit full-time work during summer and other scheduled breaks may not need to apply for the extra five (5) hours immediately but rather apply for the variation of conditions after summer, provided their current visa remains valid at that time.

Students still years twelve (12) and thirteen (13) will still require parental and school permission for the increase to twenty-five (25) hours.

Find more here: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/news-centre/upcoming-changes-to-student-visa-work-rights/>

Europe

Norway

INTRODUCTION OF MAJOR REFORMS TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS

The Norwegian government has announced a removal of the national requirement for international students to pay tuition fees at national level. In its place, individual universities and university colleges will now have the discretion to determine their own tuition fee structures for foreign students.

In addition, the government has abolished the Norwegian language proficiency requirement for securing a job with Universities and University colleges particularly for fellows and postdoctoral fellows.

Moreso, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security has now instructed the Directorate of Immigration to significantly reduce the maintenance requirement for doctoral candidates applying for a job seeker's permit.





Previously, applicants were required to document access to funds equivalent to Three Hundred and Twenty-Five Thousand Norwegian Krone (NOK325,000) (approximately Thirty-Two Thousand One Hundred and Seventy-five United States Dollars (\$32,175)). Under the new policy, this requirement has been reduced to one-quarter (1/4) of the previous amount, meaning doctoral candidates now need to demonstrate proof of funds of Eighty Thousand Norwegian Krone (NOK80,000) (approximately Seven Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty United States Dollars (\$7,920)).

Find more here:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/vil-fjerne-krav-om-hoye-studieavgifter-for-utenlandske-studenter/id3109395/>

United Kingdom

PROPOSED IMMIGRATION POLICY REFORMS

On May 12, 2025, the United Kingdom (UK) government published its white paper policy document which proposed changes that will tighten immigration and settlement into the UK.

The proposals include:

- Reduction of the list of jobs for which employers can sponsor a worker from overseas for a Skilled Worker visa by removing.
- International recruitment of care workers will cease. Workers who are already sponsored to work legally as care worker will be able to continue to extend their stay, and change sponsors, including those whose sponsor licence were revoked and need to switch employers.
- Imposition of levy on income to Higher Education providers from international students. Proceeds from this taxation are intended to be reinvested in the domestic education and skills system.
- Introducing tougher compliance rules for universities to keep their licence to sponsor student visas.
- Reduction of the standard length of the Graduate Visa for international students from two (2) years to eighteen (18) months.
- Increasing English language requirements for persons already taking language tests and requiring the partners of people moving to the UK on work visas to have basic English to qualify for a 'dependant' visa.
- Increasing the threshold for skilled worker visas qualifying period for permanent residence (also known as indefinite leave to remain or settlement) from five to ten years.
- Restricting dependants for lower skilled workers on the temporary shortage list and increasing salary thresholds for all visa holders seeking to bring in dependants.

The end of overseas recruitment of social care workers and the initial reduction to the list of jobs eligible for Skilled Worker visa is proposed to take effect on July 22, 2025. The revised list will be in place until the end of 2026; the Migration Advisory Committee is reviewing which medium-skilled jobs should be on the list beyond that.

Find more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/restoring-control-over-the-immigration-system-white-paper>

ROLL OUT OF ELECTRONIC VISAS FOR STUDY AND WORK FOR NIGERIANS

The British High commission in Nigeria has announced that from July 15, 2025, Nigerians applying for study or work visas will receive electronic visas (e-visas) instead of the traditional physical visa vignette stickers. This policy does not apply to dependents or visitors as they will be issued visa vignette sticker.

Application for the e-visa can be completed via the official government website of the United Kingdom, and the new visa is verifiable.

Italy

ITALY TIGHTENS CITIZENSHIP BY DESCENT RULES THROUGH NEW LAW AND TRANSITIONAL MEASURES

Italy has revised its citizenship law, significantly narrowing eligibility for those claiming Italian citizenship by descent. The reform, which builds on an earlier emergency decree issued on March 28, 2025, now imposes a generational limit on transmission. The new law proposes that Italian citizenship by descent is not automatic and individuals born abroad who hold another citizenship are not considered to have acquired Italian citizenship, even if born before May 24, 2025.

Individuals born abroad, either before or after the date of enactment of the law, who wish to be recognized as Italian citizens must satisfy either of these requirements - (i) have submitted their application before March 27, 2025; (ii) have confirmed an appointment before that date; (iii) have a parent or grandparent who holds or held (if deceased) exclusively Italian citizenship; or (iv) have a parent or adoptive parent who resided in Italy for at least two (2) continuous years after acquiring Italian citizenship and before the applicant's birth or adoption.

Minor children born outside Italy to Italian citizens no longer acquire citizenship automatically. Their parents must now file a declaration on behalf of the child to secure citizenship recognition in addition either of the following:

- The declaration is submitted within one (1) year of birth or adoption
- The minor legally resides in Italy for two (2) consecutive years after the declaration is filed.

The law also alters the criteria for reacquisition of lost citizenship by affected persons, prior to the 1992 regulations that permitted dual citizenship. Individuals in this category can now reacquire their citizenship if they make a declaration between July 1, 2025 and December 31, 2027, without the need to satisfy the previously imposed additional requirement to reside in Italy before the application could be completed.

Further, the criteria on citizenship by residency for applicants with second degree Italian ancestry has been amended. While all other criterion in this category remains the same, persons whose parent or grandparent is/was an Italian citizen by birth can apply for Italian citizenship after two (2) years of residence in Italy and no longer three (3) years. Also, the applicant will submit a certificate proving knowledge of the Italian language at the B1 level, criminal background check certificates and proof of income.

Descendants of Italian citizens who reside abroad may now acquire work visa to enter and reside in Italy for subordinate work, outside of the maximum quotas typically issued for work visas.

Slovakia

SLOVAKIA RESTRUCTURE BUSINESS TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMIT PROCESS

Effective July 1, 2025, the Government of Slovakia has introduced a restructured process for obtaining temporary residence permits for business purposes. Under these new regulations, applications for temporary residence for business purpose must now be submitted at the relevant Slovak diplomatic missions abroad, and will be subject to the quota limits set by the Slovak Republic Government under a Government Order issued on June 25, 2025, which also introduces annual application quotas.

Interested applicants are required to prove financial coverage for their stay, financial coverage for their proposed business activity and submit a business plan (a template can be found on the [website of the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic](#) and a document proving the sustainability of the business activity.

Additionally, current temporary residence holders can apply for change of purpose of temporary residence to "business" at the Foreign Police department provided the change is done after twenty-four (24) months from the grant of initial temporary residence.

Further reforms include: extension of the validity of national visa from ninety (90) days to one hundred and twenty (120) days to assist foreign workers in securing appointments, the overhaul of the prior requirement to submit one photo with the





residence application and proof of financial coverage of the stay (this does not apply to applications for temporary residence for business, long-term residence).

Find more here:

https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2025/182/vyhlasene_znenie

Slovenia

SLOVENIA TO LAUNCH DIGITAL NOMAD VISA IN NOVEMBER 2025

Effective November 21, 2025, Slovenia will officially introduce its Digital Nomad Visa offering remote workers a streamlined pathway to live and work in the country for a fixed period. This initiative follows the approved amendments to the Aliens Act approved in July 2024.

The Digital Nomad visa grant eligible foreign nationals the right to live and work in Slovenia for a non-extendable period of twelve (12) months. However, applicants may submit a new application six (6) months after the previous visa expires.

To be eligible, interested persons must work remotely for employers or clients outside Slovenia, rent or buy a property in Slovenia, hold a valid health insurance, provide criminal record certificate, and earn at least two (2) times the national average net salary.

Family members may accompany applicants but will not be permitted to work locally in Slovenia.

The application may be filed online via the Ministry of the Interior's platform or in person at Slovenian embassies covering jurisdiction of residence.

With this development, Slovenia joins other EU countries such as Portugal, Croatia, Germany, and Greece in embracing the global shift toward remote work and providing policies that cater to the growing global community of remote professionals.

Find more here:

<https://www.gov.si/en/news/2024-07-10-112th-session-of-the-government/>

Sweden

SWEDEN TO OVERHAUL WORK PERMIT RULES AND SALARY THRESHOLDS BY MAY 2026

On June 10, 2025, Sweden's Ministry of Justice published a memorandum outlining major changes to the country's work permit system, set to take effect on May 21, 2026. A unified application procedure will replace the current 2011 framework, simplifying the process for third-country nationals. Key updates include job mobility without reapplication, allowing permit holders to switch employers with a simple notification. Additionally, individuals who have held a work permit for over two (2) years will be allowed to remain in Sweden for up to six (6) months during periods of unemployment. Transitional applicants will need to meet revised financial requirements under the new rules.

Sweden also announced that effective June 17, 2025, the minimum salary increased to Twenty-nine Thousand Six Hundred Swedish Krona and Eighty ore (SEK 29,680) approximately Three Thousand One Hundred and Sixteen United States Dollars (\$3,116USD) per month (up from the previous Twenty-Eight Thousand Four Hundred Swedish Krona and Eighty ore, SEK 28,480 approximately Two Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety United States Dollars (\$2,990USD)). This increase will not affect EU Blue Card or Intra-Company Transferee permit holders, seasonal workers, or temporary residence status holders in other EU countries.

Find more here: [Government Offices of Sweden](#)

France

FRANCE UPDATES OCCUPATION SHORTAGE LIST TO SUPPORT WORK PERMIT AND REGULARIZATION PATHWAYS

The French government has published a ministerial order updating its list of shortage occupations, with the revised list taking effect on May 21, 2025. This update is part of France's ongoing efforts to address localized labor shortages

and to streamline both work permit sponsorship and regularization pathways for third-country nationals.

The new shortage list introduces a broader range of occupations such as catering, cleaning staff, health care, agricultural workers, home care aides, kitchen assistants, and various skilled and unskilled workers in the industrial sectors; as well as the deletion of most engineer and technician jobs except in a few regions. These are categorized using professional family codes and are region-specific, reflecting localized labor shortages across France.

In practical terms, this list enables employers to bypass standard labour market testing when sponsoring foreign workers for permits. It also facilitates the use of exceptional admission to residence (AES), a regularization procedure introduced by the Immigration Law of January 26, 2024, allowing undocumented workers already employed in shortage occupations to obtain legal residence without the involvement of their employer, if they have been employed in a shortage occupation for at least 12 months and have resided in France for at least three years. This rule applies until December 31, 2026.

Germany

GERMANY ABOLISHES VISA OBJECTION PROCEDURE

Effective July 1, 2025, the German Federal Foreign Office has abolished the objection procedure for all visa rejections worldwide. The objection procedure, previously available as an optional legal remedy, allowed applicants to challenge a visa refusal without initiating court proceedings. Its removal follows a pilot project conducted across select German visa sections from June 1, 2023, which showed marked improvements in processing speed and staff efficiency. Visa units reported a significant reduction in waiting times and a higher volume of processed applications during the pilot phase.

Although the objection route has been discontinued, applicants will still retain full access to legal protections through judicial review and can submit a new application at any time in case of a rejection.

Find more here: [German Missions in the US](#)

Africa

Kenya

VISA FREE AND ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORISATION (ETA) FREE ENTRY FOR NIGERIANS

Kenya has updated its visa policy for African and Caribbean nationals excluding Libya and Somalia. Under the new policy, eligible passport holders are no longer required to obtain a visa or Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) for entry into Kenya for stays of up to sixty (60) days. Travelers will only need to present a valid Nigerian passport at the point of entry.

Please note that formal communication from the Kenyan authorities is still pending. Nonetheless, interested stakeholders may wish to keep this development in view when planning travel to Kenya.

Nigeria

ONBOARDING OF THE NEW EXPATRIATE ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Nigeria has commenced the onboarding of the new expatriate administration system. Following the roll out of the e-visa system, on June 30, 2025, the Federal Ministry of Interior through the Honourable Minister, Dr Olunmi Tunji-Ojo, announced that two (2) major digital platforms for the electronic Combined Expatriate Residence Permit and Aliens Card (CERPAC) and the electronic Temporary Work Permit (TWP) will be live in a few weeks.

The digitization of the CERPAC and TWP, is aimed at streamlining applications for seamless processing, and avoiding abuse of the permit process.

Ghana/Morocco

GHANA AND MOROCCO COMMENCE VISA-FREE TRAVEL WITH ELECTRONIC AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENT

Following the bilateral agreement between Ghana and the Kingdom of Morocco, Ghana announced via an official communique dated June 10, 2025, that effective





June 6, 2025, nationals of Ghana no longer require a visa to enter Morocco for purposes of tourism or business. However, Ghanaian travelers must obtain an electronic travel authorization to Morocco (ETAM) in advance through Morocco's official online portal, Accès Maroc before arrival in Morocco. The ETAM is typically issued within twenty-four (24) hours of application.

Under this visa waiver, Ghanaians are permitted duration of stay of up to ninety (90) days in Morocco.

According to the communique, holders of Diplomatic, Service and Special passports are exempted from obtaining visas or ETAM.

Find more here:

<https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Morocco-waives-visa-requirement-for-Ghanaian-passport-holders-1987649>

<https://www.acces-maroc.ma/#/>

North America

Quebec

SUSPENSION OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION APPLICATIONS FOR SELECTED DEPENDENTS UNTIL JUNE 2026

The Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Francisation et de l'Intégration (MIFI) has announced that it has reached the maximum number of receivable applications for selected dependants under the family reunification category from June 26, 2024, until June 25, 2026. As a result, the MIFI is not accepting new applications for these dependents until June 25, 2026.

The affected dependents under this category include spouses, common-law spouses, conjugal partners, and a dependent child aged eighteen (18) years and above.

Applications received after the cap has been reached will be returned to the applicants without processing. Additionally, any fees paid for processing will not be deposited.

Applicants whose submissions were returned may submit a new application once a new intake period opens.

Further information on the management of family reunification applications will be announced by June 25, 2026.

Please note that MIFI continues to accept undertaking applications for other eligible family members under the family reunification program.

Find more here:

<https://www.quebec.ca/en/news/actualites/detail/family-reunification-maximum-number-applications-received-63826>

Canada

INCREASED PROOF OF FUND THRESHOLD FOR EXPRESS ENTRY

Canada has announced an increase to the proof of fund requirement for individuals applying for permanent residency through the Express Entry program. This update applies specifically to candidates under the Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP) and the Federal Skilled Trades Program (FSTP) who do not have a valid job offer in Canada. According to the new rules introduced on July 7, 2025, the following funds will apply in the applicable category:

Number family members	Minimum funds needed (CAD)
1	15,263
2	19,001
3	23,360
4	28,362
5	32,168
6	36,280
7	40,392
If more than 7 people, for each additional family member	4,112

Proof of fund is required and must be readily available at the point of application and when the permanent resident visa is issued.

In addition, applicants are required to have legal access to the funds and excluded from using equity on real property as proof of settlement funds or funds borrowed from another person. Applicants must be able to utilize the funds to cover their family's costs of living even if travelling alone.

Where the spouse is also travelling, joint accounts may be considered, and funds held in the spouse's account can count provided applicant can demonstrate that they have access to the money.

To remain eligible under the updated rules, applicants are advised to update their express entry profile with the revised proof of funds no later than **July 28, 2025**.

Find more here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/express-entry/documents/proof-funds.html#how-much>

United States

SUSPENSION OF FOREIGN STUDENTS FROM HARVARD EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

On June 4, 2025, The United States (US) Government issued a presidential proclamation aimed at safeguarding national security, which imposes a suspension on the entry of foreign nationals planning to study and participate in the exchange programs at Harvard University.

The proclamation suspends entry into the US for students holding non-immigrant class F, M or J visa if their program of study is affiliated with Harvard University. Furthermore, students who currently are within the affected visa categories may have their visas revoked. International students studying under Student Exchange Visa Program (SEVP) at other universities or whose entry is deemed in interest of the US are exempt from the scope of the proclamation.

Find more:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/06/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-restricts-foreign-student-visas-at-harvard-university/>

COMMENCEMENT OF SOCIAL MEDIA VETTING FOR NONIMMIGRANT F, M, AND J VISA APPLICANTS

The U.S. Department of State announced a key change to its visa screening process specifically for visa classes F-1 (student), J-1 (exchange visitor), and M-1 (vocational student). By the new rules, visa applicants will now undergo comprehensive and thorough social media screening and vetting. Applicants must now ensure all social media profiles are publicly accessible during the application process. Consular officers will review applicants' online content, flagging posts deemed hostile to the U.S. or indicative of threats such as support for terrorism, anti-semitism, or violence. Content misaligned with U.S. values may affect visa eligibility.

Find more here:

<https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2025/06/announcement-of-expanded-screening-and-vetting-for-visa-applicants>

U.S. IMPOSES NEW ENTRY BAN ON NATIONALS OF TWELVE (12) COUNTRIES

On June 4, 2025, the President of the United States of America signed a proclamation barring entry into the United States for nationals of twelve (12) countries, some of which have been found deficient in screening and vetting procedures or pose a very high risk to the US. The affected countries include Afghanistan, Burma (Myanmar), Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Republic of Congo, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. The ban is grounded in national security concerns, according to the proclamation.

In addition, partial entry restrictions will apply to nationals from Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela, countries also considered to pose a high risk to the US. These restrictions will be tailored and vary by visa type or applicant category.





Find more here:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/06/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-restricts-the-entry-of-foreign-nationals-to-protect-the-united-states-from-foreign-terrorists-and-other-national-security-and-public-safety-threats/#:~:text=The%20Proclamation%20fully%20restricts%20and,%2C%20Libya%2C%20Somalia%2C%20Sudan%2C>

REVISED RECIPROCAL NON-IMMIGRANT VISA POLICY FOR SELECTED COUNTRIES

The US has announced that effective July 8, 2025, Nigerian citizens applying for non-immigrant and non-official visas will be issued single entry visas valid for three (3) months. Visas previously issued before July 8, 2025 remain valid and unaffected.

This policy also extends to other countries including Angola, Benin, Burkinafaso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Congo Brazaville, Congo DR, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guina, Eritrea, gambia, Ghana, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Sao tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Suth Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Find more here:

<https://ng.usembassy.gov/revised-visa-reciprocity-policy-for-nigeria/>

CLARIFICATION ON VALID ALIEN MARRIAGES FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services has updated its policy - USCIS Policy Manual, Volume 4, on valid marriages between principal asylee or refugee and their acclaimed spouses. By the updated guidance, all marriages between principal asylees or principal refugees and their claimed derivative spouses must be legally valid under the law of the jurisdiction where the marriage was celebrated to be considered valid for immigration benefit purposes. The amendment is effective from March 3, 2025 and applies to all request filed on the effective date or thereafter.

Find more here:

<https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/uscis-updates-guidance-on-validity-of-alien-refugee-and-asylee-marriages>

US INTRODUCES \$250 VISA INTEGRITY FEE FOR NON-IMMIGRANT VISA APPLICANTS

As part of the broader immigration reform package referred to as the "One Big Beautiful Bill" signed into law on July 4, 2025, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has announced the implementation of a new mandatory Two Hundred and Fifty United States Dollars (\$250) Visa Integrity Fee for all non-immigrant visa categories, effective in 2026.

The Visa Integrity Fee is intended to promote accountability and discourage the misuse of temporary visas. The fixed \$250 fee will be collected at the time of visa issuance and will apply to all non-immigrant visa applicants, including those applying for visitor visas.

Functioning similarly to a visa bond, the fee serves as a conditional security deposit. In certain cases, the fee may be refunded, provided the visa holder meets strict compliance conditions. According to the DHS, a refund may be granted only if:

1. The visa holder fully complies with all terms and conditions of the non-immigrant visa; and
2. The visa holder departs the United States either within the authorized validity period of the visa or no later than five (5) days after its expiration, and has not applied for an extension.

The DHS also holds regulatory authority to adjust the fee amount annually.

While the policy framework has been finalized under the legislation, implementation procedures and detailed guidelines are still under development and are expected to be completed ahead of the policy's enforcement in 2026.

Conclusion

Global immigration regimes are rapidly recalibrating, some towards openness and others towards restriction. While countries like Slovenia and Norway are expanding access or easing formalities, others like the U.S. and UK are aggressively tightening control, especially over students and digital transparency. For applicants, opportunity is growing in Asia and parts of Europe but so is scrutiny in Western jurisdictions. The key shift is no longer just about paperwork, but perception and policy alignment.

These developments demand a more strategic, country-specific approach to visa applications. In particular, the U.S. has raised the stakes by linking eligibility to social media expression and institutional affiliations. Applicants must now engage with immigration systems as both legal and political landscapes. For businesses, students, and travelers alike, tailored, informed guidance has never been more critical.

This alert is for general information only. It is not offered as advice on any particular matter, whether legal, procedural or otherwise.

Foreign currency values are subject to fluctuations, and it is advisable to verify current rates for updated fees.

For additional information, please contact Bloomfield LP Email - immigration@bloomfield-law.com or your usual contact at Bloomfield LP.

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