



Global Immigration alert

August 2024

Pakistan

Pakistan Prime Minister proposes significant amendments to visa rules

Executive summary

On 28 July 2024, the Prime Minister of Pakistan proposed a series of significant visa reforms, including visa fee waivers for eligible nationals of 126 countries and a visa-free policy for qualifying individuals from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. These changes will go into effect once they are officially approved by relevant authorities.

Key developments

If approved, the following changes will be implemented:

- ▶ Eligible businesspersons who are nationals of GCC countries will be able to enter Pakistan without a visa.
- ▶ Visa fees will be waived for qualifying businesspersons, investors and tourists from 126 countries when they submit their visa applications using the appropriate online portal. These individuals will also be issued visas within 24 hours of filing their application.

The authorities have not yet clarified the definition of “businesspersons,” and the full extent to which these changes will impact business visitors is not yet known. The authorities are expected to release further details about these changes in the upcoming months.

Impact

These changes, if approved, would benefit impacted individuals by reducing the time and costs associated with entry to Pakistan and seek to attract further foreign investment and trade in the country.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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