



# Global Immigration alert

July 2024

## Singapore

Singapore announces several immigration changes

### Executive summary

Singapore's Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) recently implemented changes to the regulations governing Student's Pass holders and simplified the use of its online application portal for several categories of immigration applicants.

### Key steps

The new changes include the following:

- ▶ *Student's Pass holders:*
  - ▶ Student's Pass holders may now apply for Singapore Permanent Residence (SPR) if they have passed at least one national exam (i.e., a Primary School Leaving Examination or a Singapore-Cambridge General Certificate of Education at a normal, ordinary or advanced level) or are enrolled in the [Integrated Programme](#), regardless of how long they have studied in Singapore. Previously, Student's Pass holders were eligible to apply for SPR only after completing at least two years of study in Singapore.
  - ▶ The father or grandfather of an individual studying in Singapore based on a Student's Pass is now eligible to apply for a Long-Term Visit Pass (LTVP) to accompany the individual. Previously, only the mother or grandmother of these individuals were eligible to apply for an LTVP. LTVP applications must be sponsored by a Singaporean citizen or SPR holder aged 21 or above, and only one LTVP holder can accompany a Student's Pass holder.
- ▶ *SPR applicants:*
  - ▶ Individuals can now fill the SPR form and provide relevant declarations online on the ICA's new [e-Service](#) platform

using their [Singpass](#) account. Previously, these individuals were required to complete a physical application form and related appendices offline and upload these documents on the platform. Applicants must submit the application within 14 calendar days of starting the application (seven days to fill the form and upload relevant documents, and seven days to review all information, complete the declaration and pay the application fee).

- ▶ Eligible individuals may now apply for multiple immigration documents (e.g., LTVP and SPR) through a single application via the new e-Service platform. If eligible, this option will be shown to individuals when they begin filing their application.

### Impact

The gender-neutral approach allowing fathers and grandfathers to apply for an LTVP to accompany eligible students will provide more flexibility to families. In addition, Student's Pass holders may now be able to apply for an SPR earlier than previously. With an SPR status, individuals will have a permanent immigration status in Singapore, which will provide them access to public services. Finally, the new ICA online portal introduces various enhancements to current application processes and aims to enhance efficiency and user experience by streamlining the application processes for SPR, LTVPs and citizenship. Applicants may take note of the time limit to complete and submit applications.

## 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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