

# Mobility: Immigration alert

October 2021



## Malaysia

### Malaysia announces multiple immigration policy changes

#### Executive summary

The Malaysian Government recently announced several policy changes designed to expedite the process of obtaining Malaysian immigration Passes and entering Malaysia.

#### Applications submitted to the ESD and TC

Effective 15 November 2021, non-Malaysian nationals and their dependent family members who apply for Residence Passes-Talent from TalentCorp (TC) and Employment Passes, Professional Visit Passes and other relevant Passes from the Expatriate Services Division (ESD), will be able to receive their Pass endorsement sticker by mail at the address of the Malaysian sponsoring company. They will also be able to obtain the endorsement stickers in person at a MYXpats Centre or the ESD Satellite Centre at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport I (KLIA I). Previously, endorsement stickers could only be affixed to the individual's passport in person at the offices of the ESD and TC in Malaysia. This procedural change is expected to significantly decrease the time needed to obtain endorsement stickers. Currently, the issuance of endorsement stickers can take upwards of 20 business days due to government processing backlogs and the limited availability of in-person appointments.

The ESD is a division of Malaysia's Immigration Department that supports Malaysian companies and non-Malaysian nationals with expatriate-related immigration matters. TC is a national agency tasked with driving Malaysia's national talent strategy and supporting Malaysian employers with attracting skilled foreign workers, among other things. The ESD and TC support the intake and processing of certain

immigration applications, including Employment Passes, Professional Visit Passes and Residence Passes-Talent. The ESD and TC recently updated their fee schedules. For more information, click [here](#) and [here](#).

#### Online payment of levy fees

Effective 15 November 2021, Malaysian companies that sponsor expatriates to work in Malaysia may now pay their levy fees for Passes such as Employment and Dependent Passes [online](#). Levy fees are application fees that are paid to the Malaysian Government. Previously, Malaysian companies were required to pay levy fees in person at the offices of the Malaysian Immigration Department. This change is expected to reduce the time and cost associated with paying levy fees.

#### New MYXpats Centre in Penang

The ESD recently announced that it will open a MYXpats Centre in the Malaysian state of Penang in the first three months of 2022. The new MYXpats Centre will serve companies based in northern Malaysia.

#### Electronic Special Pass (e-SP)

The Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) recently stated that, effective 11 October 2021, electronic Special Passes (e-SP) may be issued to foreign knowledge workers who are seeking to: (1) renew their Malaysian immigration Passes, (2) change employers to companies registered with the MDEC, (3) change positions within the same MDEC-registered company, or (4) depart from Malaysia after the expiration of their permitted period of stay.

### **Projection of Foreign Knowledge Worker (FKW) quota applications**

The Malaysian Government recently announced that Malaysian companies registered with the MDEC may submit applications for the FKW quota for calendar year 2022 starting on 1 November 2021. Applications may be submitted online via the [eXpats portal](#). For more information about the FKW quota, click [here](#).

### **Fully vaccinated Malaysians traveling overseas for social purposes**

The Malaysian Government recently announced that fully vaccinated Malaysians seeking to depart Malaysia for tourism or social purposes may now do so without advance approval from the Malaysian Immigration Department. Previously, Malaysian citizens seeking to depart Malaysia were only permitted to do so for emergency matters, business trips and official government affairs, after receiving approval from the Malaysian authorities. Malaysian citizens will still need to comply with exit requirements, including testing negative for a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) COVID-19 swab test taken no more than 72 hours prior to their departure from Malaysia.

### **Travelers departing from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka**

The Malaysian Government announced late last month that non-Malaysian nationals traveling from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka may now enter Malaysia for the first time since April 2021, when the Government imposed an entry ban on these travelers to curb the rise in COVID-19 (Delta variant) cases in Malaysia. These travelers must have received the second dose of an approved two-dose COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days prior to traveling to Malaysia, or a single dose of an approved one-dose COVID-19 vaccine at least 28 days prior to travel. While the Government has not published a list of approved vaccines, the following vaccines are currently being recognized by the Government: Pfizer BioNTech (Comirnaty), Moderna, AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria, Covishield), Janssen (Johnson & Johnson), Sinovac (CoronaVac), Sinopharm, CanSino, Sputnik V and Covaxin.

### **New online portals for home quarantine requests and LTSVP renewal applications for spouses of Malaysian citizens**

The Government announced late last month that individuals entering Malaysia may now [apply online](#) (instead of via email) to quarantine in a private home instead of a government-approved facility. The Government is currently processing home quarantine requests within 7 to 10 working days of the request date. Applicants must be fully vaccinated, have a suitable residence in Malaysia and test negative for a PCR COVID-19 test no more than 72 hours prior to travel in order to apply for home quarantine.

A new [portal](#) has also been rolled out to facilitate the application process for non-Malaysian spouses of Malaysian citizens who are seeking to extend their stay in Malaysia. Applicants are required to submit their renewal applications prior to the expiry of their Long Term Social Visit Pass (LTSVP) and appear in person at the offices of the Malaysian Immigration Department to have their new LTSVP endorsed in their passports. Previously, applicants were required to complete all steps of the renewal process in person at the offices of the Malaysian Immigration Department.

### **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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