

Mobility: Immigration alert

June 2023



United Kingdom

Changes to the Youth Mobility Scheme

Executive summary

On 31 May 2023, the UK's first post-Brexit trade deals with Australia and New Zealand came into effect. As part of the new deals, the UK will introduce changes to the [Youth Mobility Scheme](#) (YMS) that make it easier for qualifying applicants from Australia and New Zealand to enter the UK pursuant to the YMS.

Key Developments

The new trade deals will introduce the following changes:

- ▶ Effective 29 June 2023, nationals of New Zealand between the ages of 18 and 35 years will be eligible to apply for a UK Youth Mobility Visa, and visa holders will be able to live in the UK for up to three years. Previously, the maximum age limit for these applicants was 30 years, and visas were granted for a maximum stay of two years.
- ▶ Effective 31 January 2024, Australian nationals between the ages of 18 and 35 years will be eligible to apply for a UK Youth Mobility Visa, and visa holders will be able to extend their visas for up to three years. Previously, the maximum age limit for these applicants was 30 years, and visas were granted for a maximum stay of two years.
- ▶ UK nationals are expected to benefit from future changes to Australia's Working Holiday Maker scheme and New Zealand's Working Holiday Visa scheme.

Impact on employers

These changes are expected to provide UK employers with greater access to talent from Australia and New Zealand.

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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