

PROFILE



- **Name:** Mohd Faizal Fairuz Bin Mohd Bani, 38
- **Current employment:** Head of Corporate Assurance, Protasco Berhad
- **Work experience:** 13 years
- **Education background:** Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), Chartered Member of The Institute of Internal Auditors (CMIIA), Chartered Institute of Management Accountant (CIMA) from Kaplan Financial London and Bachelor of Business in Accounting from Dublin Business School.



MY STORY by MOHD FAIZAL FAIRUZ

2. Why did you decide to pursue a career as an internal auditor?

The decision to pursue career as an internal auditor was due to an offer from a company once I came back from completing my studies. Subsequently, I fell in love with the career when I realised the impact that I can make to the organisation with this profession.

3. How important is an Internal Auditor's role in the organisation?

Internal Audit is important as we, internal auditors act on behalf of Audit Committee in discharging their responsibility in Governance, Risk and Internal Control for the company.

4. What is the typical challenge internal auditors generally face? And amongst them, can you highlight what would be one of the biggest challenges?

Investigation Audit:

When every party is interested with the outcome of the audit in no time and with limited resources and unavailable evidence.

Planned Audit :

When we are always mistakenly perceived as policeman, watch dog and fraud finder. We are actually not. We are there to help the company in the spirit of governance, risk and internal control.

5. Does the Institute play a role in supporting your Internal Auditor scope of work? If yes, in what ways? And if no, what can we do better?

IIA Malaysia provides the avenue for the auditors to upskill. I find IIA Malaysia always keeps up with the industry's current development and try to make sure the trainings provided are aligned with the latest development and trend such as emerging risk and new industry.

6. Would you recommend IIA Malaysia to your fellow IA colleagues?

Of course ! There's no other who can provide us with such a resourceful material, be it for own career development and professional exam purposes. We can also connect and network with other internal auditors from different companies locally and internationally via IIA Malaysia platform when training is conducted.

7. What motivated you to take the CIA exam?

What made me to enroll is because I have my friend from university day who pushed/forced me to enroll. He is also now a CIA holder, he wanted me to enroll as he wants companion (study mate) in his CIA journey. As soon I open up the syllabus book, I realised that the topic covered in CIA was an eye opener as I get to learn things that I never learned before especially for Part 1 and Part 2.

8. What were the challenges you encountered when attempting the CIA exam?

To unlearn and re learn. It means that to leave the wrong practice I did behind and absorb the right things as I learnt it in CIA syllabus.

9. How did you manage your study time while working?

Discipline is a key, perseverance is the secret code to success. Don't always give excuses and that keeps me moving. I personally took time off which was one week approaching to the exam date to study and spent more than three quarter of the day studying and practising the questions which was in the question bank.

10. As a CIA certified professional, where do you envision yourself?

Discipline is a key, perseverance is the secret code to success. Don't always give excuses and that keeps me moving. I personally took a time off one week approaching to the exam date to study and spent more than three quarter of the day studying and practising the question.

11. How important is CIA for an internal auditor?

CIA adds value to your CV. It is a hard earned recognition that every auditor will look up for. CIA has opened up opportunity for a brighter career progression and teaches you the right way to perform your role. CIA also equips me with the technical tool to conduct audit and it set boundaries that safeguard the profession.

12. Please provide 3 main advice for those attempting to take the CIA examination

- Don't be lazy in attempting question bank. Be disciplined and don't give up easily. It might be different from others but my way was, one hour or 15 question per day 3 months before the exam.
- Do not memorise, but get your understanding right and be firm on it.
- Always think about why the wrong answer is wrong. It will path your thinking to rationale and it will lead you to checking your text book. This tests your IA principle and whatever question/situation/case study in the question comes your way, you can nail it correctly.