

MY JOURNEY TOWARDS BEING A CIA

MY STORY by IZZUDDIN FAKHRI NORHATTA



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Current employment: Head of Internal Audit and Integrity & Governance, Malaysian Kuwaiti Investment Co. Sdn Bhd

Work experience: 9 years in the Internal Audit profession

Education background: Bachelor of Accountancy (Hons.), Universiti Teknologi Mara, ACCA, Dublin Business School, CIA

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

The distinctive capability inherent to the internal auditing profession lies in its provision of a platform to acquire comprehensive insights, comprehend and appraise strategies, operations, processes and controls across diverse organizational functions.

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

Of paramount significance is our role within the organisation, as we deliver objective and independent assurance while evaluating risk, control, and governance, concurrently aiding in the attainment of organizational objectives.

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

Addressing the expectations and requirements of relevant stakeholders, particularly as certain stakeholders may lack a comprehensive understanding of our purpose, authority and responsibilities.

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

Certainly, IIAM consistently offers training sessions and publishes articles pertinent to contemporary issues and advancements, thereby augmenting the knowledge, skills, and competencies of the internal audit function comprehensively.

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

Without any doubt.

6. What motivated you to take the CIA exam?

“If you want something you’ve never had, you have to do something you've never done.”

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

Determining the accurate answer from among the right answers.

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

Revision and attempting practical questions for a minimum of 1 hour on weekdays and 3 hours on weekends.

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

Embracing a significant role with enthusiasm, consistently imparting valuable experiences, knowledge, and skills to fellow internal auditors.

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

- Obtain sufficient comprehension and familiarity with the relevant Internal Audit Standards.
- Grasp the rationales behind incorrect answers.
- Effectively manage time during the examination to ensure no questions are left unanswered.