

MY JOURNEY TOWARDS BEING A CIA

MY STORY BY JASMENE KAUR



Name: Jasmene Kaur

Current employment: Yinson Holdings Berhad

Work experience:

20 Years

Education background :

Bachelor of Commerce, CPA Australia, CIA, CISA

IIAM membership category :

Associate Member, CIA

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

I wanted to have a more in-depth understanding of how a business operates, not just from a financial perspective, but also from an operations point of view. Internal audit enabled me to do this by providing visibility into the entire operations of a business and delving into the various facets of the business.

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

Internal Audit plays a pivotal role in ensuring that the controls put in place are working effectively, help promote transparency and accountability within the organization, and enhance operational efficiency, which contributes to ensuring compliance with applicable laws and regulations thus safeguarding the organization's reputation.

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

Typical challenges face by internal auditors are:-

- Asking the right questions and thinking critically to identify root cause of a control breakdown, which requires attention to detail to pinpoint the underlying issues effectively.
- Ability to keep abreast with the latest changes and development within the industry or even the profession to ensure internal auditors can stay relevant and continuously update their skills and knowledge.
- Earning trust from stakeholders and managing their expectations – management, board, regulators, shareholders etc.

4. 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?

Yes, IIA has always been very supportive of any clarifications that have been sought be it in the technical aspect or even in stakeholder management. The IIA also offers various resources, including professional development opportunities, industry insights and networking opportunities.

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

Definitely

6. What motivated you to take the CIA exam?

For me personally, it was a natural progression, offering an opportunity to deepen my understanding of internal audit practices and enhance my professional credentials.

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

Having the discipline to continuously study after work every day and understanding the nuances of exam questions and applying theoretical concepts to practical scenarios.

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

By allocating a few hours every day to study the materials and performing more practice questions. Also, by speaking to CIA members who have passed the exam to get their inputs

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

To be an Audit Committee member where I can contribute to the betterment of the company's controls by providing valuable input and advise based on my experience in Internal Audit which gave me insight into a company's operations.

10. How important is CIA for an internal auditor?

CIA designation provides internal auditors with a solid foundation in internal audit practices and principles, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and expertise to navigate the complexities of internal auditing. It not only enhances credibility but also signifies a commitment to professional excellence

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

- While studying materials are essential, dedicating time to complete practice questions is equally crucial as this will help you familiarise with the way questions are asked in the exam.
- Try to understand the concepts being taught, instead of just memorizing the textbook, which will also help enhance your overall grasp of internal audit principles.
- Don't hesitate to reach out to CIA-certified professionals for insights and tips on exam preparation.