

# MY JOURNEY TOWARDS BEING A CIA

MY STORY BY NUR HAZLIYANA MAZHAR



**Name:** Nur Hazliyana Binti Mazhar, 33

**Current employment:** Assistant Manager Internal Audit, MR. D.I.Y. Group Berhad

**Work experience:**

9 years + as Internal Auditor, 6 years in Manufacturing/Pharmaceutical Industry, 2 years in Retail-based Industry.

**Education background :** Bachelor of Accountancy, Universiti Putra Malaysia

**IIAM Membership Category :** Associate Member, AIIA

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

I decided to pursue a career as an Internal Auditor because the exposure as an internal auditor will enhance and broaden my knowledge of different industrial practices. It is always amazing to learn new things.

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

Internal auditors play a crucial role in maintaining balance and checks in organizations. We are able to see the whole process that covers inter-department processes and roles, which helps add value in optimizing organizations' operations.

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

A typical challenge that internal auditors may face is pressure from management to overlook certain issues or to tailor their findings and recommendations to fit a particular agenda. Besides that, we also often operate with limited resources, which can constrain the ability to conduct thorough and independent assessments. We need help accessing necessary data, tools, or expertise to fulfil our objectives effectively. One of the biggest challenges is obtaining unlimited access to data and its process. Auditees tend to sugarcoat or try to make everything look perfect, which hinders our review from being able to mitigate or help them.

**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?**

My answer would be Yes, because IIA as a body that supports should always helps us in making our jobs more comprehensive, complete and thorough by providing necessary resources for our references for our auditing reviews.

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

Yes.

**6. What motivated you to take the CIA exam?**

What motivate me to take CIA exam is because I wanted to enhance my skills and increase my knowledge as Internal Auditor for me to be able to do my job in better ways and provide better results toward my organizations. Joining the sponsorship program under Yayasan Peneraju also helped motivate me to finish my CIA paper.

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

Challenges I encountered in attempting the CIA exam is managing or organizing my time as a mother and employee. To balance study time with family and workload.

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

There were many ways the trainers provide on how to manage studies or how many hours we should study to cover all topics and be ready for the exams. I used that as a guide and scheduling my study time to at least one hour per day at night and 2 hours during the weekend. Every night I miss my study time, I will compensate during the weekend to complete the recommended study time. Besides, IIA learning tools also helped a lot in completing and managing my studies.

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

Honestly, becoming CIA is one of my targets. I never had a vision for my career as CIA. However, as CIA, I foresee myself as able to guide as many young auditors as possible to become internal auditors.

**10. How important is CIA for an internal auditor?**

Certified Internal Auditor is globally recognized, which gives internal auditors credentials to organizations and fellows internal auditors. It helps internal auditors in navigating and build connections in the internal auditor world, which eventually will broaden our knowledge and enhance our skills as internal auditors.

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

- Motivate yourself with whatever that suits your personal and professional pleasures. Gives your self some credit and arrange your study time in a way which makes you comfortable and enjoy to study. Never study in stress or pressure environment.
- Try and attempt to finish the exam within 1.5 years. Give your self around 6 months for each part and continue to attempt for exam without any long break to keep the momentum.
- Engage IIA learning system that suits you and join any training provided to boost your motivation and encourage you to complete your exam.
- Study Smart, Pray Hard and Goodluck!