

MY JOURNEY TOWARDS BEING A CIA



MY STORY by DANAESHWARAN



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

The depth and breadth of the internal audit field which covers all aspects of an organisation which promotes lifelong learning to truly understand how an organisation functions and interacts with its internal and external environment.

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

Very important given the rising VUCA (volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity) in the operating environment in which organisations are in coupled with the rapid pace of technology and regulatory change which makes the role of internal auditor more relevant for the foreseeable future.

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

The ability to learn and adapt to new and emerging issues such as AI, ESG and new regulations in order to deliver value to the organisation while having limitations in terms of budget and manpower.

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, the Institute plays a vital role in coming up with training programs and publications via newsletters to ensure Internal Auditors are equipped with the latest knowledge and technical skills to deliver value to their organisations.

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

Yes, I would recommend IIA Malaysia to anyone who is interested in the field of internal audit.

6. What motivated you to take the CIA exam?

The exclusivity of the CIA qualification being the only worldwide recognised qualification for the internal audit profession.

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

The challenges included finding and allocating time to study for the CIA exam while working full time as well as finding a suitable online learning material to facilitate learning without attending instructor led courses.

PROFILE:



- **Name:**
Danaeshwaran Sivapathasundaram
- **Current employment:**
 - Wolters Kluwer
- **Work experience:**
 - 10 years
- **Education background:**
 - Bachelor's degree in Accounting
- **IIAM Membership Category:**
CRMA, CIA, AIIA

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

By opting for an online learning approach via Gleim Exam Prep which enabled learning flexibility while working full time.

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

To continue to hone and develop professional skills and experience in the field of internal audit and to assume the role of Head of Internal Audit for a large organisation.

10. How important is CIA for an internal auditor?

Very important given the higher expectations for internal auditors aspiring to rise to a senior position within the internal audit function.

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

Firstly, ensure you are fully prepared before attempting the exam. Ensure that you have done adequate revisions and practice questions before attempting the exam so that you increase your chances of passing in the first attempt itself which will motivate you to pursue and finish the remaining papers.

Secondly, ensure proper time management especially if you are working and studying for the examination. Do not study at the last minute and ensure you have sufficient time gap planned between your study period and the date of your exam.

Thirdly, ensure that you have adequate practice of questions under timed conditions using your online learning approach so that you are aware of the time management required when answering questions in the actual exam and have sufficient knowledge on key areas within the syllabus.

