



MY JOURNEY TOWARDS BEING A CIA



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Current employment: Assistant Manager - Investigations, Group Corporate Assurance, CIMB Group Berhad

Work experience: 5 years

Education background : Bachelor of Accountancy (Hons)

IIAM Membership Category : Associate Member (AIIA) & Certified Internal Auditor (CIA)

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

I have always enjoyed meeting and consulting with people while understanding their businesses, and helping them strengthen and tighten their process controls.

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

It is one of the most crucial roles that every organisation should have within its organisational structure, as it helps strengthen policies and controls to achieve intended business objectives.



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

For me, despite the existence of Technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI), the biggest challenge has always been gaining management's acceptance and understanding of the internal auditor's role in their business, as well as obtaining full cooperation to achieve business objectives. I have experienced situations where management refused to accept control recommendations or take appropriate actions for the sake of profit.

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, IIAM has always been supportive throughout my journey in pursuing the CIA qualification by providing responsive and helpful guidance to my enquiries.

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

Yes.

6. What motivated you to take the CIA exam?

I have always had a strong thirst for knowledge, and I observed that many of my colleagues pursued professional qualifications. In today's environment, internal auditors must continuously evolve and enhance their knowledge to remain relevant.



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

Time management was a key challenge, as I had to balance my audit assignments with my study commitments.

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

I set a study schedule and committed to spending at least two hours every day on revision.

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

As a CIA-certified professional, I envision myself growing into a trusted internal audit leader who adds strategic value to the organisation. I aim to go beyond assurance by strengthening governance, risk management, and internal controls. I also aspire to support management, adapt to emerging risks, and contribute to the organisation's long-term success.

10. How important is CIA for an internal auditor?

I have always had a strong thirst for knowledge, and I observed that many of my colleagues pursued professional qualifications. In today's environment, internal auditors must continuously evolve and enhance their knowledge to remain relevant.



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

- 1) Be disciplined in terms of allocating time for study;
- 2) Be focused and train yourself to be multi-tasker; and
- 3) Never give up and continue master the topics till you feel satisfied.