



TOWARDS EXCELLENCE

Certifications – A Commitment To Professional Development

Welcome to July, a pivotal moment as we reach the halfway mark of 2025 and embark on a new financial year filled with promise and purpose.

In our continued pursuit of a sustainable and forward-looking internal audit profession, we are pleased to share exciting developments in certification pathways that reflect evolving global standards and diverse career trajectories.

The Internal Audit Practitioner (IAP) pathway, introduced initially to accommodate varying individual career journeys, has now reached a significant milestone. One of the most impactful updates is the formal recognition of the IAP exam as a permanent credential, a shift from its previous temporary designation. More importantly, the IAP is now officially recognised as an accelerated pathway to the Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) exam.

This advancement opens new doors for university students, early-career professionals, and internal auditors without a degree to begin their CIA journey with a strong and validated foundation. Candidates will have two years from the date of acceptance to complete the IAP.

The IAP exam syllabus has also been enhanced to:

- Reflect current global internal audit practices,
- Offer deeper coverage of core audit fundamentals,
- Align with The IIA's suite of certifications,
- Establish an accelerated pathway to the CIA, especially for students, and
- Uphold the IAP as a permanent designation requiring 20 hours of annual Continuing Professional Education (CPE).

These updates present an exciting and attainable opportunity to launch or accelerate your professional certification journey. I strongly encourage you to explore how these changes can benefit your career trajectory.

In parallel, the CIA exams have also been refreshed to align with the newly issued Global Internal Audit Standards, ensuring relevance and consistency across the profession.

Learning Opportunities Ahead

Looking ahead, we invite you to participate in our [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Symposium](#) on July 29, 2025, where we will explore the practical applications of AI in internal audit. Whether you are embarking on your AI journey or seeking to refine your expertise, this symposium will provide valuable and actionable insights.

Mark your calendars for our Annual Conference on 9 October 2025, themed '*Shaping Change. Elevating Insight.*' More details will follow soon. Stay tuned.

To support your ongoing development, we are also introducing new courses tailored to today's high-demand skills:

- [Storytelling for Internal Auditors - Crafting Impactful Narratives](#)
- [Data Analytics with SQL for Internal Auditors](#)
- [Unlocking the Power of AI: A Practical Workshop for Auditors](#)
- [Mastering Critical Thinking Skills](#)

As we usher in a new financial year, let us embrace these opportunities to grow, adapt, and lead. Let us continue to strengthen our impact and shape a more resilient, insightful profession together. Excellence is a journey, not a destination. I leave you with a saying from Leo Buscaglia: "Change is the end result of all true learning."

Yours sincerely

Stephen Ching

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