

Profile

Nurlan is an Associate Tax Director at KPMG, Qatar.

Nurlan was awarded DITT in August 2024.

Qualifications

DITT

Nurlan Sadraddinzaade



Interview

Tell us about your current role, career so far and how did you first start working in tax?

My tax journey began more than a decade ago. After completing my university studies in finance and taxation, I joined EY Azerbaijan where I was introduced to tax. Over the years, I have gained in-depth knowledge of tax by working on various high-impact projects such as tax impact assessments and implementation strategies for clients. Along the way, I have also acquired various certifications such as PMP, CMA as well as DITT, which have enhanced my relevant skills and abilities.

I am currently an Associate Director at KPMG Qatar, where I lead a team of tax professionals and work closely with high-profile clients on complex tax compliance and advisory projects. My primary focus is on value-added tax, and I guide companies from various industries in navigating the complexities of relevant tax regulations.

What area of tax do you work in and how did the tax technology qualification help you in your day-to-day job?

I specialise in indirect tax projects and my experience in this area has been extensive, particularly as organisations adapt to the evolving indirect tax landscape. The tax technology qualification has significantly enhanced my ability to manage these projects effectively.

With the insights gained from the DITT, I've been able to implement innovative solutions that streamline future tax compliance processes. Additionally, the program has equipped me with the skills necessary for effective change management in technology projects. Implementing new technology in tax systems often requires careful planning and adaptation, and my qualification has given me the tools to facilitate this transition smoothly.

By understanding both the technical aspects and the broader implications of tax technology, I can guide organisations through the change process, ensuring they maximize the benefits of their investments in technology.

Overall, the tax technology qualification has been invaluable in my day-to-day work, enhancing my capacity to deliver efficient direct and indirect tax solutions and driving forward the integration of technology within the tax function.

What motivated you to take this qualification?

My motivation to pursue the DITT stemmed from my close involvement with client companies' systems while advising on indirect tax changes. Through this hands-on experience, I recognised that my knowledge of how tax and technology intersect could be enhanced. The DITT modules directly addressed these needs, providing me with a deeper understanding of the tools and techniques that are transforming the tax landscape.

This qualification presented an opportunity to expand my expertise and stay ahead in a rapidly evolving field.

What are your observations on the syllabus, learning experience, assessment questions and touchpoint communications?

I have had a very positive experience with DITT. The syllabus is well-organised and covers important topics relevant to today's tax landscape. I found the learning experience engaging, with a good mix of reading materials, videos, and practical examples that made it easier to understand complex concepts. The assessment questions were helpful in reinforcing what I learned and encouraged me to think critically.

What stood out in terms of learning and skills you have developed as a result of studying the DITT?

Studying for DITT has broadened my understanding of the interplay between tax and technology. One of the key learning outcomes was gaining practical insights into how advanced technologies, such as data analytics and automation, can enhance tax compliance and reporting processes. I developed critical skills in identifying and implementing tax technology solutions that streamline workflows and improve accuracy. Additionally, the program emphasized change management strategies, equipping me with the tools to effectively navigate organisational shifts as new systems are introduced.

How did you manage studying and working at the same time?

Balancing a demanding career while studying was certainly challenging, but it has also been incredibly rewarding. I set clear priorities and made a structured plan to balance commitments. For me evenings, and weekends became dedicated time for my studies, while I ensured that my personal responsibilities are also fulfilled. Breaking learning materials into smaller, manageable goals helped me stay focused and motivated throughout.

Do you have any guidance on how best to approach the learning material?

To effectively approach the learning material in DITT, allocate dedicated study time each week to establish consistency. Before watching the videos, read the accompanying materials to build a solid foundation. Taking notes while studying can help reinforce key concepts and create a useful resource for later review.

Which module did you enjoy the most and what were the most relevant to your current role?

The module I enjoyed the most was Project Management and Change Management, as it closely aligns with my projects. These topics are crucial when managing the complexities of tax projects and ensuring smooth transitions during system changes. Understanding effective project management techniques has equipped me with the skills to plan, execute, and monitor tax-related initiatives successfully. Additionally, the insights gained in change management have been invaluable in navigating the organisational shifts that come with implementing indirect tax solutions.

How do you think this programme will benefit the profession?

This program has the potential to significantly benefit the tax profession by advancing the integration of technology in tax processes. As the industry evolves, leveraging tools like data analytics, automation, and AI has become essential for staying competitive. Moreover, the program fosters a more strategic and proactive approach to tax management. With access to real-time data and predictive analytics, tax professionals can provide businesses with timely advice and insights, helping them optimise their tax position and make more informed financial decisions. In the long term, this program will create a generation of future-ready tax experts who can adapt to the changing tax landscape.





Would you recommend this programme to others?

Yes, I would recommend the programme to others. One of the features of the DITT is its supportive and flexible nature. The online platform allows you to allocate your time according to your own schedule, making it easy to balance your studies with work and personal commitments. Whether you're at home, in the office, or travelling, you can access the materials and complete the coursework whenever it suits you best. This flexibility makes it accessible for busy professionals, ensuring that you can learn at your own pace without feeling overwhelmed. Additionally, the supportive resources and community within the program provide guidance and encouragement along the way.

What kept you motivated throughout the programme?

One of the biggest motivators for me was recognising the strong links between what I was learning in the programme and my day-to-day work. As I progressed through the courses, I saw how many of the concepts and tools related to my projects. This connection made the learning experience feel relevant and meaningful.

Any words of wisdom to future candidates thinking of studying the DITT?

For anyone in the tax field considering DITT, I strongly encourage you to take this path. If you're looking to deepen your understanding of how tax and technology intersect, this programme is an excellent choice. The world of tax is rapidly evolving, and embracing technology is essential for staying competitive and effective in your role. Moreover, this program connects theory to real-world applications, helping you see the direct benefits of what you learn.