

Profile

Pankaj is a Senior Manager at Intellicore Consulting Group, United Arab Emirates.

Pankaj completed DITT in February 2023.

Qualifications

DITT holder

Certified Public Accountant (CPA), USA

Chartered Accountant, India

Pankaj Agarwal



Interview

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

I began my career in the India tax office of a US multinational corporation, where I gained foundational experience in US tax reporting and compliance. This role provided me with a solid understanding of tax fundamentals and exposure to the intricacies of multinational tax structures.

I then transitioned to Accenture's tax transformation team in India. Here, I did my first tax technology implementation project for a client in South Africa. I subsequently joined Deloitte USI and later PwC UK, advising multinational clients across North America and EMEA regions respectively, on tax optimisation strategies and navigating finance transformation projects.

I now work at Intellicore Consulting Group, where I've leveraged my extensive experience in tax to assist businesses in the United Arab Emirates navigate the evolving tax landscape and implement tax technology solutions tailored to their needs.

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

Primarily, my focus lies in corporate income taxation, where the introduction of new regulations in the Gulf region and of Pillar Two legislation has made the integration of technology increasingly important for efficiency and compliance. My role is to understand the client's financial and tax landscape, their processes, pain points, strategies and goals with a view to provide a tailored solution to address their requirements.

The DITT has equipped me with the knowledge to stay abreast of emerging technologies and trends in the field of tax. This continuous learning ensures that I remain agile and adaptable to changes in technology, tax regulations and industry practices.

What motivated you to undertake this qualification?

The rapidly evolving landscape of tax and technology necessitates continuous learning and adaptation. The Diploma presented a great opportunity to expand my knowledge and stay abreast of emerging trends and developments.

I was also driven by the prospect of enhancing my professional credentials. Acquiring a specialised qualification in tax technology not only demonstrates my commitment to this profession, but also increases my credibility and marketability within the industry.

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

The syllabus is comprehensive and well-designed, covering a wide range of topics relevant to the intersection of tax and technology. You have access to a variety of resources such as lectures, notes, external links and reference reading, as well as a DITT LinkedIn community where you can discuss topics and collaborate. The programme incorporates real-world examples and scenarios to facilitate practical application of concepts. Finally, the assessment questions are designed to evaluate your understanding of key concept, and your ability to apply them in practical scenarios.

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

The course provides you with enough information to acquaint you with tax technology topics and the confidence to explore them further based on your interest. Studying the DITT has been a rewarding journey that has empowered me to make great contributions to my organisation and advance my career in the field of tax technology

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

I enjoyed the ERP module the most because it intersected with my prior experience in ERP systems whilst also providing me with fresh insights into how tax considerations can be integrated into ERP implementations, ensuring compliance and efficiency in tax-related processes within organisations. This is relevant to my current role where I can now effectively implement and manage tax-related functionalities within the organisation's ERP environment.

How do you think this programme will benefit the profession?

The programme will benefit the profession by fostering innovation and strategic thinking in the tax technology space. It will encourage professionals to explore new approaches and technologies in tax management, and help organisations stay ahead of the curve, identify opportunities for optimisation, and drive value creation in the tax function. By providing structured training, the DITT contributes to the development of a skilled workforce equipped to meet the evolving needs of the tax profession.

Would you recommend this programme to others?

I would definitely recommend this programme to others, especially those core tax or core technology professionals who want to learn the other side of things. Completing the DITT can enhance career opportunities and provides a valuable credential that demonstrates proficiency in tax technology, increasing marketability and credibility within the industry.

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

Understand your "why?" - what triggers your interest in the DITT? It may be your desire to move into a tax technology role, getting your skills credentialised, or any other motivation. Once you address your "why", you will have a better reason to start (and complete) the course.

The field of tax technology is constantly evolving, so approach the programme with a mindset of continuous learning and adaptation. Stay curious, explore new ideas, and remain open to acquiring new knowledge and skills throughout your journey.

