

Profile

Swati Talwar is Founder of The Tax Chambers in Delhi, India, and a tax lawyer practising before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), Delhi High Court and Supreme Court of India.

Swati achieved ADIT in 2023, completing the Energy Resources and Transfer Pricing modules, alongside Principles of International Taxation.

Qualifications

ADIT holder

Swati Talwar



Interview

What made you choose to study ADIT?

I chose to study ADIT in my quest to widen my horizons, expand globally and get a globally recognized certificate in international tax practice.

What does a typical working day look like for you?

My mornings start with going to tax courts and arguing cases for my clients. I spend the later part of the day in the office preparing case files, draft agreements, and in client meetings. My favourite part of the job is the courtroom exchanges between myself and the judges during the hearing of a case.

What are your career highlights to date? What has been your biggest challenge?

I am a tax attorney based in India and an internationally qualified lawyer certified by the National Committee of Accreditation, Canada. I'm also a member of the Supreme Court Bar Association of India. Being a tax attorney, each day at work is challenging, especially dealing with clients with complex transfer pricing issues and treaty interpretation.

What was your perception of international tax before your ADIT learning began? How has this changed?

Before I began my ADIT learning, I had narrow understanding of concepts in international taxation, transfer pricing and oil and gas taxation, which was limited to issues and cases that I had come across during my career through the work I'd done for my clients. Post-ADIT, I've been able to learn and dive more deeply into these areas. Given the comprehensive content coverage of the ADIT course, the qualification has made a massive addition to my knowledge and application thereof.

Who has inspired you so far in your career?

Well, there have been a lot of stumbling blocks in my career and choosing to pursue international taxation hasn't been easy. Philip Baker KC is and always has been my inspiration and I admire him for his work, often referring to his book on Double Taxation Conventions. My own failures or stumbling blocks that I've come across, and my inner instinct to overcome these times, have also been my inspiration to continue in my career.

Do you have any study tips for those preparing for ADIT exams or advice for someone considering their career options?

Keep calm. Time management is the sine qua non for cracking the exams, and patience and perseverance are key. Organise the content well and make short notes. Adhere strictly to recommended texts as mentioned in the ADIT syllabus.

Which module did you enjoy the most and why? Which was the biggest challenge?

I enjoyed the Energy Resources module the most because I hadn't worked in this area before and I learned concepts which were new to me. I am a keen learner and new things always excite me. The biggest challenge for me was managing content and revising the whole syllabus just before the exam and I was really nervous the day before.

Do you have any additional thoughts and /or comments on ADIT?

I am very satisfied with the whole ADIT experience and am grateful to Rory Clarke, ADIT Manager, and the entire CIOT team for providing me with a smooth exam experience. I'm happy to share my story with current and prospective ADIT students and wish them success in their ADIT journey. For all those who are new to the field of international taxation and wish to elevate their skill set through this qualification- just trust yourself and remember, investing in ADIT is an investment in your future as a skilled and valued international tax professional. In case you would like to connect with me, I can be reached at swati.talwar@thetaxchambers.com.

