


Fresh thinking that moves you forward

Financial Services Capabilities

2021



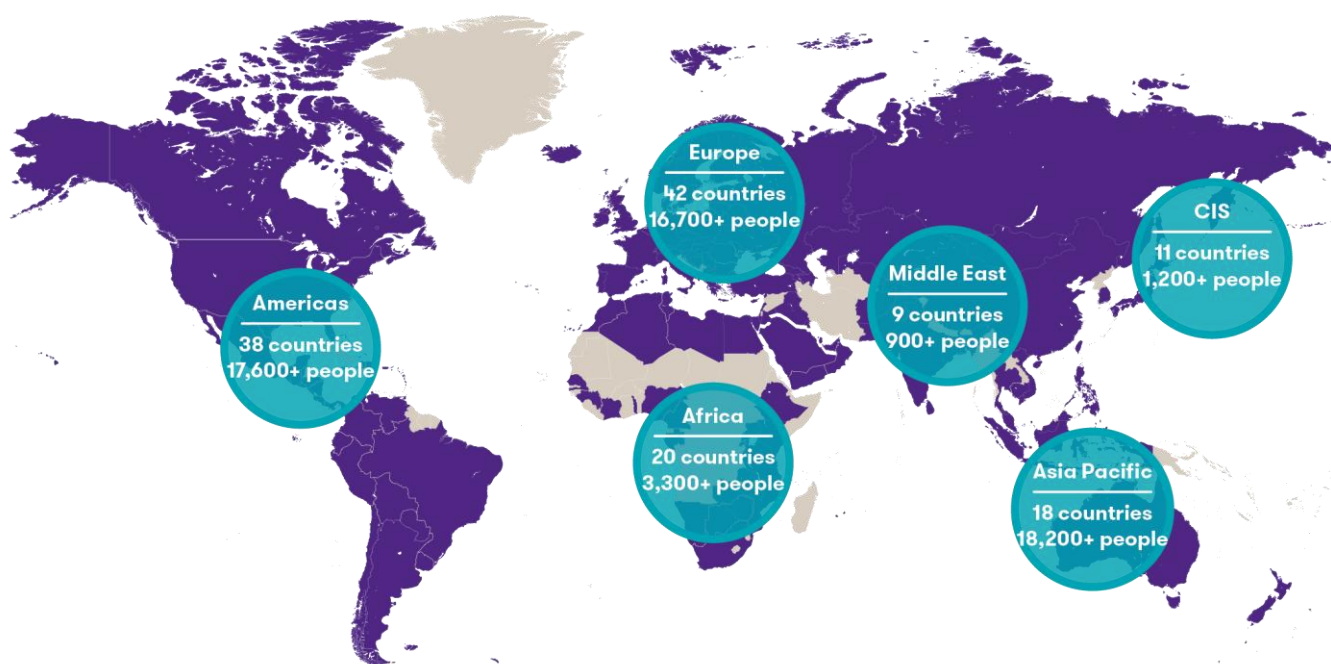
Audit | Tax | Advisory

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About Grant Thornton

We are a network of independent assurance, tax and advisory firms, made up of 58,000 people in 138 countries. And we are here to help dynamic organizations unlock their potential for growth.



We are one of the top six accountancy firms leading globally.

For more than 100 years, we have helped dynamic organizations realise their strategic ambitions. Whether you're looking to finance growth, manage risks and regulations, optimise your operations or maximise stakeholder value, we can help you.

We've got scale, combined with local market understanding. That means we're everywhere you are, as well as where you want to be.



\$5.76 bn
revenue in 2020



58,000+
people



750+
offices



138
countries



Our distinctive
client experience
sets us apart

Our accolades



Local feel, global team

The firm was established in Bahrain in 2000 and has been a member of Grant Thornton International since 2006. We are one of the leading professional services firms offering Assurance, Business Risk, Advisory, IT Advisory, VAT Advisory, Outsourcing, and Legal Services to a wide range of sectors within the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Organizations come to us for our global scale, quality, industry insights and deep technical expertise. But what sets us apart is our distinctive client experience which leads to more meaningful advice and a better working relationship.

Middle East Presence

Bahrain | Saudi Arabia | UAE | Oman | Qatar
| Kuwait | Egypt | Iraq | Jordan | Yemen



1300+
CLIENTS



130+
PROFESSIONALS



11
PARTNERS AND
DIRECTORS





Financial Services Practice

Grant Thornton's global financial services practice generates revenue of US\$710 million, with 2,400 dedicated financial services professionals, providing solutions to 7 of the world's top 10 asset managers and 6 of the 10 largest international insurance companies. All of the top 10 global banks are served by Grant Thornton.

As one of the largest professional services firms in the Kingdom of Bahrain, Grant Thornton Abdulaal has both local and global financial services expertise to add value to our clients.

Our readiness to provide client services

Financial institutions operate in an increasingly complex and heavily regulated environment. Grant Thornton Abdulaal provides robust, independent and professional advice. Whether it be a complicated challenge, an unforeseen crisis or just a straightforward technicality, clients can rely on our financial services team for high quality and highly reliable guidance.

We have multi-disciplinary, partner-led teams with a diverse blend of experience.

At Grant Thornton in Bahrain, we serve a diverse range of clients in the Financial Services industry. The breadth of our client base gives us deep insight into the complexity of how different clients operate and the issues and risks they face.

Helping at each stage of the entity's lifecycle

We can help your financial institution at any stage of the lifecycle from setting up in the Kingdom of Bahrain or acquiring a business, including feasibility studies and business plans, to external and internal audit requirements, business advisory or transaction and regulatory advisory, IT and VAT services, and legal, audit and advisory services at the latter stages of operations. We also provide outsourcing services to assist with your transition and growth.

We understand what it takes to take your entity forward at each stage of development, whether you are emerging, growing, maturing or in transition.

We provide practical, commercial and innovative solutions to some of the largest and most well-known institutions across the financial services sector within the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Financial Services Practice

Strong cross-border connections have led to an increased demand from our clients for our global capabilities. Rapidly growing businesses are either operating internationally or planning cross-border expansions. This creates a need to adapt to challenging market conditions, dealing with complex events, transactions and restructuring.

As a global organization, we focus on providing the best-in-class services designed to deliver real value and support investor confidence. We use the same tools, methodologies, training and standards across geographies to ensure consistency and cohesion. Our scale and depth mean we have credible teams in all jurisdictions.

A strong team of technical and functional professionals having strong consulting experience, kept abreast of international and regional trends in financial sector through a strong research team internationally, ensure that our clients get sound and practical advice in a timely manner.



We are conscious that each organization faces different challenges, has different priorities and commitments, and a different balance between risks and rewards.

Our approach to requirements is always custom developed and strategically prepared based on the specifics of the situation and client expectations. This ensures that we deliver the maximum value at the most cost effective fees and within the required timelines.

Whether in streamlining internal operations or simplifying customer interactions, technology has become a key differentiator in the financial services industry. With a clear focus on “making life easy” for our clients, our teams work closely with our clients’ senior management in evaluating, implementing, operating, and monitoring technology investment to derive maximum benefits. Our purpose is to make our clients more successful, provide secure solutions to complex problems and enable them to achieve their goals.



Services We Offer

We are experts in the financial services sector and are able to tailor our approach and services to the particular requirements of the financial services industry. Our market knowledge and technical expertise in a wide range of services allow us deliver client service excellence in a seamless way.



Our team

Our progressive thinkers offer services to help create, protect, and transform value today, so you have opportunity to thrive tomorrow.



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Area of Expertise

Audit and Business
Assurance | Investigation |
Due diligence | Advisory
services

Experience

- Jassim is the Managing Partner of Grant Thornton's Bahrain office. His primary role encompasses managing existing & potential client relationships.
- He has over 30 years of experience in the field of audit and business assurance services, investigation, due diligence reviews and special advisory assignments for local and multinational client.
- Prior to joining Grant Thornton, Jassim was Audit Partner in BDO and a Director at Price Waterhouse Coopers. He served as a member of Bahrain Parliament for 4 years, acting as Chairman and Vice – Chairman of Finance & Economic Committee. From 1990 to 1995 he worked in a UK Office of Coopers & Lybrand.
- Jassim has managed engagements including business assurance services, investigations, due diligence reviews and special advisory for local and multinational clients during his tenure with Grant Thornton.
- He is responsible for the delivery and quality of our services and achieving the company goals and growth plans.
- His geographical experience spans across UK and MENA region.

Professional qualifications

- FCA (Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales – UK)

Industry Experience

Financial Services | Government Institutes | Education Institutions |
Trading & Manufacturing | Hospitality | FMCG & Food | Travel |
Construction | Media & Telecommunications | Utilities

Our team

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Jatin Karia
Senior Partner

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Area of Expertise

Audit and Assurance issues
| Internal Audit and Risk
Advisory | Technology |
Implementing and
managing VAT practice |
Special Advisory (TAS,
M&A, Valuation & Business
Consultancy | Working
with IFRS

Experience

- Jatin is a Senior Partner at Grant Thornton Abdulaal and has been with the firm for over 14 years. Jatin's primary role encompasses exploring business development opportunities and managing existing & potential client relationships. Jatin is actively involved in the firm's engagements, ensuring all deliverables comply with Grant Thornton International quality standards.
- Jatin has over 20 years of experience in the field of audit and assurance services, internal audit, and special advisory assignments for local and multinational clients. Jatin has an active role with Grant Thornton internationally. This includes acting as team leader for the Assurance Quality Reviews performed for Grant Thornton Channel Islands and Grant Thornton Isle of Man.
- Jatin's experience spans across many industries, including audits of banks and other financial institutions. His geographical experience covers many regions, aside from Bahrain, including MENA region, UK & India.
- Prior to joining Grant Thornton, he was associated with Lovelock & Lewes, India (a member firm of PwC India) & Chartered Accountants firm M/s Kalyaniwalla & Mistry (a member firm of Mazars) where gained experience on banking engagements, amongst other clients.

Professional qualifications

- ACA - Associate Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)
- MBA (Finance) – India
- CFC – Certified Financial Consultant (USA)
- CRMA - Certification in Risk Management Assurance (IIA)

Industry Experience

Financial Services | Government Institutes | Education Institutions |
Trading & Manufacturing | Hospitality | FMCG & Food | Travel |
Construction | Media & Telecommunications | Utilities

Our team

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Yaser Abbas Salman
Partner

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Area of Expertise

Audit and assurance |
Internal audit | Risk
assessment | Corporate
governance | Process
analysis and documentation
| Regulatory advisory |
Working with IFRS

Experience

- Yaser is a Partner at Grant Thornton Abdulaal. He has over 13 years of experience, concentrated in the financial services sector. He is responsible for managing the entire engagement lifecycle and conducting business development activities.
- At Grant Thornton Bahrain, Yaser leads financial services engagement teams in delivering audit and assurance, internal audit, risk advisory and regulatory advisory services as well as special assignments to clients.
- Prior to joining Grant Thornton Abdulaal, he was associated with Gulf International Bank (GIB) and Ernst and Young Bahrain.
- Yaser joined GIB's Internal Audit Department at a critical stage in its strategy, re-inventing itself from its previous Merchant Banking model to a pan-GCC Universal Bank with a footprint in Wholesale, Retail & Investment Banking across the entire GCC. This allowed him a very unique opportunity to participate in the launch of the new Retail Bank in KSA. Yaser was involved in the overhaul of existing policies and procedures which were replaced with newly developed process flow maps, and policies and procedure manuals.
- At Ernst and Young Bahrain, he served in the Audit & Assurance Business Services (AABS) Division, part of the Banking & Financial Services Group, which has a specialization in Banking & Finance Sector Audit assignments. During this tenure, Yaser was exposed to a portfolio of retail and investment bank audits. He carried out planning and execution of statutory audits as well as agreed upon procedures engagements and interim reviews.

Professional qualifications

- ACCA – Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (UK)
- CIA – Certified Internal Auditor (USA)
- CFSA – Certified Financial Services Auditor (USA)
- CIPA – Certified Islamic Professional Accountant
- Member of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA, USA)

Industry Experience

Financial Services | Government Institutes | Education Institutions |
Trading & Manufacturing | Hospitality | Construction

Our team

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Shahnawaz Khan
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Area of Expertise

Audit and Assurance issues |
Risk Advisory | Implementing
and managing IFRS
conversions practice |
Special Advisory (TAS, M&A,
Valuation & Business
Consultancy

Experience

- Shahnawaz Khan is a Partner at Grant Thornton Abdulaal and leads the insurance and IFRS 17 practice. He specialises in providing assurance and advisory services including the IFRS conversions to financial services, Sovereign funds, Government institutions, Investment funds, family groups and regulators.
- He has worked numbers of years in London financial services market serving life, general insurance and Lloyds syndicates including listed clients in London, USA and Bermuda on assurance and advisory assignments. He has also worked in north sea market in energy sector.
- In GCC, he has led the audit of a broad range of large corporations and public interest entities across various industry sectors, including insurance and Takaful entities. Some of his key clients are Capital Market Authority, Muscat Securities Market, Dhofar Insurance, MIG Group, Al Ahlia Insurance, Aviva, LIC, AON, Munich Re, Prudential Plc, Solidarity Insurance and Takaful Oman.
- He has been responsible for various cross-border assurance services to leading clients in the region reporting on IFRS, UK and US GAAPs. He has lead and performed due diligence assignments on Basel and Solvency II compliance.
- He has been part of learning and development teams in the GCC region and Europe, facilitating internal and external trainings on IFRSs, insurance, AML, industry trends and best practices. Some of his recent trainings are IFRS 17 workshop for ICAI Muscat Chapter, Bahrain Insurance Associations and leading insurers in GCC.
- In the past, he worked with big four firms in UK, Kuwait, KSA, Malta, Bahrain and with GT in Oman.

Professional qualifications

- ACA - Associate Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)
- ACA - Associate Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ICAEW)
- Bachelor of Commerce – Delhi University

Industry Experience

Financial Services | Insurance | Sovereign Funds | Energy | Family Business

Our team

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Area of Expertise

Risk based internal audit |
Risk assessments | Internal
control reviews | Compliance
Reviews | Business process
analysis | Process
improvement | HR advisory |
Corporate & Family
governance | Forensic
Services | Data Analytics

Experience

- Sunil is a Partner (Business Risk Services) with Grant Thornton's Bahrain office and has been associated with the firm since December 2012.
- He has over 20 years of experience in Business Risk Services.
- Currently he is heading Grant Thornton Bahrain's business risk services division and he is responsible for business development activities, managing the entire engagement lifecycle and client relationship management. He has been engagement partner for multiple engagements related to business risk services.
- He has been engagement partner for internal audit and other risk services provided to Retail & Wholesale Banks, Insurance Companies, Investment Companies & Firms and Ancillary Service Providers in Bahrain.
- His geographical experience spans across Bahrain, UAE, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, India, Egypt and Sudan.
- He was involved in conducting the risk assessment workshops and internal audit training to staff. Prior to joining Grant Thornton, he was associated with Deloitte Haskins & Sells in India, KPMG Fakhro and Abdulla Yousif Fakhro Group in Bahrain.

Professional qualifications

- CA, ICAI, India
- Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), US
- B-Com, Mumbai University, India

Industry Experience

Financial Services | Oil & Gas | Utilities | Government Institutes |
Education Institutions | Trading & Manufacturing | Hospitality | FMCG
& Food | Travel | Construction | Media & Telecommunications

Our team

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Area of Expertise

Data Protection | Advisory |
FinTech | Digital
Transformation | Project
Management | Cyber
Security | Risk Management

Experience

- Navneet is a seasoned IT Advisory, Data Protection Services, FinTech, Cloud Services, Digital Transformation, Cyber Security & Project Management professional with over 18 years cross-industry and international consulting experience.
- He has worked across the Business Consulting and Data Protection teams, with a focus on large scale data protection project delivery.
- He has lead development of Proof of Concept and Regulatory Sandbox for FinTech & Blockchain Technology in Bahrain, UAE and India.
- He has lead and delivered various engagements in IT System Implementation/ Post Implementation, Cyber Security testing and implementation of solutions, IT Risk management, System Audits, Information Security in Europe, India, Africa and Middle East Region.
- He has extensively worked with leading organization in Government, Regulatory, Telecommunication, Financial Services, Media & Entertainment, Manufacturing, Retail / FMCG, Oil & Gas/ Energy and various other industries.
- Business Process and Reengineering, Automation for clients in insurance, banking, government services, manufacturing and information security.
- Prior to joining Grant Thornton, he has associated with Protiviti, DIFC (Dubai), Airtel (Africa), PwC (India) and Punjab National Bank (India).

Professional qualifications

- Bachelor of Engineering (Electronics)
- Masters in Business Administration (IT & Finance)
- Project Management Professional (PMP)
- Certified Information Security Manager (CISM)
- Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA)
- ISO 27001 Lead Implementer / Auditor
- ISO 22301 Lead Implementer/ Auditor
- Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)
- Certified in Risk and Information Security Controls (CRISC)
- COBIT Foundation
- ITIL Foundation Certificate in IT Service Management

