

FINANCE & ACCOUNTING | COURSE BROCHURE

Certificate in Financial Control

5 days | Classroom training | English

SMART HORIZON

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Course content

Why attend

This course offers a comprehensive exploration of financial control principles, tools, and practices essential for effective financial management. Participants will develop skills in budgeting, forecasting, variance analysis, and internal controls, equipping them to enhance organisational financial performance and decision-making.

Financial control is critical for organisations to ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively. Participants often face challenges in managing budgets, monitoring financial performance, and implementing controls to mitigate risks. Mastering these skills is essential for informed decision-making and achieving strategic objectives. Participants will learn to assess financial statements, construct budgets, and design internal controls, which are vital for maintaining financial integrity and compliance. These capabilities directly impact an organisation's ability to allocate resources wisely, respond to financial challenges, and drive sustainable growth. By developing these competencies, participants will enhance their ability to contribute to their organisation's financial health and strategic direction.
The course enables participants to develop practical capabilities in financial analysis, reporting, and compliance. Through real-world scenarios, they will practice creating budgets, conducting variance analyses, and designing internal control systems. This hands-on approach ensures that participants can apply their learning directly to their roles, enhancing their contributions to their organisations. By engaging in collaborative exercises, they will also improve their ability to communicate financial insights to stakeholders, fostering a culture of transparency and accountability. Ultimately, these skills empower participants to make strategic financial decisions that align with organisational goals, ensuring long-term success and resilience.

Professional Problems This Course Is Designed to Solve

• Difficulty translating subject knowledge into practical workplace decisions.
• Inconsistent approaches to the activities covered in the course outline.
• Lack of a structured plan for applying and reviewing new skills.

Course methodology

The course employs a blend of interactive workshops, case studies, and practical exercises to build financial control capabilities. Participants will engage in simulations that replicate real-world financial scenarios, allowing them to apply concepts such as budgeting and variance analysis. Outputs will include financial reports, control frameworks, and budget proposals, providing tangible evidence of their learning. Each session is designed to encourage active participation and collaboration, ensuring that participants not only understand theoretical concepts but also gain confidence in applying them to their specific workplace contexts. This approach fosters a deeper understanding of financial control processes and their implications for organisational success.



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Course objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:
• Analyse financial statements to assess organisational performance and identify areas for improvement.
• Construct a comprehensive budget that aligns with strategic goals and operational needs.
• Evaluate variances between budgeted and actual performance to inform decision-making.
• Design an internal control system to mitigate financial risks and ensure compliance.
• Prioritise financial resources based on organisational objectives and risk assessments.
• Justify recommendations for financial improvements based on analytical findings and stakeholder needs.

Target audience

This course is suitable for:
• Finance Managers responsible for budget oversight and financial reporting.
• Accountants who need to enhance their financial control skills for better compliance.
• Business Analysts focused on financial performance and strategic planning.
• Operations Managers who require financial insights for resource allocation.

Target competencies

Participants will develop competencies in:
• Budgeting and forecasting proficiency for effective financial planning.
• Variance analysis skills to identify and explain financial discrepancies.
• Internal control design capabilities to safeguard organisational assets.
• Financial reporting expertise for clear communication of performance metrics.
• Risk assessment techniques to prioritise financial decisions.
• Analytical skills to interpret financial data and support strategic initiatives.

Course outline

Day 1: Foundations of Financial Control

Applied activity: Participants will analyse a fictional company's financial statements, identifying strengths and weaknesses while considering the implications for financial control. They will assess the company's financial health using KPIs and discuss their findings in small groups, focusing on potential areas for improvement.
Output: A report summarising the financial health assessment and KPI analysis, including recommendations.

09:00–09:54	Introduction to financial control concepts and importance in organisations.
09:54–10:48	Overview of financial statements: balance sheet, income statement, cash flow statement.



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10:48–11:00	Key performance indicators (KPIs) for measuring financial health and operational efficiency.
11:00–11:30	**Coffee break**
11:30–12:12	Key performance indicators (KPIs) for measuring financial health and operational efficiency. (continued)
12:12–13:06	Understanding the budgeting process and its role in financial control and planning.
13:06–14:00	Introduction to internal controls and their significance in financial management and compliance.

Day 2: Budgeting Techniques and Best Practices

Applied activity: Participants will create a detailed budget for a fictional project, incorporating various budgeting techniques and justifying their choices based on organisational goals. They will present their budget to peers for feedback, simulating a real-world budget approval process.
Output: A comprehensive project budget document with justifications and a presentation for peer review.

09:00–09:54	Types of budgets: operational, capital, and flexible budgets, and their applications.
09:54–10:48	Steps in the budgeting process: preparation, approval, monitoring, and revision.
10:48–11:00	Techniques for effective budgeting: zero-based budgeting, incremental budgeting, and forecasting.
11:00–11:30	**Coffee break**
11:30–12:12	Techniques for effective budgeting: zero-based budgeting, incremental budgeting, and forecasting. (continued)
12:12–13:06	Common budgeting pitfalls and strategies to avoid them in practice.
13:06–14:00	Tools and software for budgeting and financial forecasting, including best practices.

Day 3: Variance Analysis and Performance Measurement

Applied activity: Participants will conduct a variance analysis for a fictional company, comparing budgeted figures to actual results. They will prepare a presentation to explain the implications of their findings and recommend corrective actions to address significant variances, simulating a management meeting.
Output: A presentation with variance analysis results, insights, and actionable recommendations for management.

09:00–09:54	Understanding variance analysis: definitions, types of variances, and their implications.
09:54–10:48	Calculating and interpreting variances: price, quantity, efficiency, and spending variances.
10:48–11:00	Using variance analysis to inform managerial decisions and corrective actions effectively.



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11:00–11:30	**Coffee break**
11:30–12:12	Using variance analysis to inform managerial decisions and corrective actions effectively. (continued)
12:12–13:06	Linking performance measurement to strategic objectives and operational performance.
13:06–14:00	Communicating variance findings to stakeholders effectively and persuasively.

Day 4: Designing Effective Internal Controls

Applied activity: Participants will evaluate the internal controls of a fictional organisation, identifying weaknesses and proposing enhancements to strengthen financial oversight. They will work in groups to develop a presentation that outlines their findings and recommendations for improvement, simulating a board review.
Output: A report detailing the assessment and proposed internal control improvements, including a presentation for stakeholders.

09:00–09:54	Principles of internal control and their relevance to financial management and risk mitigation.
09:54–10:48	Components of an effective internal control system: control environment, risk assessment, control activities, information and communication, monitoring.
10:48–11:00	Assessing existing controls and identifying weaknesses in financial processes.
11:00–11:30	**Coffee break**
11:30–12:12	Assessing existing controls and identifying weaknesses in financial processes. (continued)
12:12–13:06	Best practices for implementing internal controls in financial processes and compliance.
13:06–14:00	Case studies of internal control failures and lessons learned for improvement.

Day 5: Integrated Financial Control Application

Applied activity: Participants will work in teams to develop a financial control framework for a fictional organisation, integrating budgeting, variance analysis, and internal controls. They will present their framework to a panel for feedback, simulating a real-world implementation scenario and addressing potential challenges.
Output: A detailed financial control framework presentation, including integration strategies and anticipated outcomes.

09:00–09:54	Bringing together budgeting, variance analysis, and internal controls for comprehensive financial management.
09:54–10:48	Developing a financial control framework tailored to organisational needs and strategic goals.
10:48–11:00	Utilising technology and data analytics in financial control processes for enhanced decision-making.



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11:00–11:30	**Coffee break**
11:30–12:12	Utilising technology and data analytics in financial control processes for enhanced decision-making. (continued)
12:12–13:06	Preparing for audits and compliance requirements through effective financial controls.
13:06–14:00	Strategic decision-making based on integrated financial insights and performance metrics.

The timings provided are estimates and may vary depending on the number of participants and the discussions taking place during the sessions. They are indicative only and do not constitute a binding commitment.

Dates, venues and fees

Current published course plans. Fees are per participant in EUR, excluding unconfirmed taxes.

Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (EUR)
Dubai Confirmed dates	16 Nov 2026	20 Nov 2026	**€3,150.-**
Online Confirmed dates	16 Nov 2026	20 Nov 2026	**€1,250.-**
Cape Town Confirmed dates	23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	**€1,890.-**
Online Confirmed dates	23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	**€1,250.-**
Frankfurt Confirmed dates	7 Dec 2026	11 Dec 2026	**€2,650.-**
Online Confirmed dates	7 Dec 2026	11 Dec 2026	**€1,250.-**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (EUR)
Kuala Lumpur Confirmed dates	14 Dec 2026	18 Dec 2026	**€1,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	14 Dec 2026	18 Dec 2026	**€1,250.-**
Paris Confirmed dates	4 Jan 2027	8 Jan 2027	**€2,860.-**
Online Confirmed dates	4 Jan 2027	8 Jan 2027	**€1,250.-**
Istanbul Confirmed dates	18 Jan 2027	22 Jan 2027	**€2,650.-**
Online Confirmed dates	18 Jan 2027	22 Jan 2027	**€1,250.-**
Amsterdam Confirmed dates	1 Feb 2027	5 Feb 2027	**€2,540.-**
Online Confirmed dates	1 Feb 2027	5 Feb 2027	**€1,250.-**
Singapore Confirmed dates	15 Feb 2027	19 Feb 2027	**€2,820.-**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (EUR)
Online Confirmed dates	15 Feb 2027	19 Feb 2027	**€1,250.–**
Rome Confirmed dates	22 Feb 2027	26 Feb 2027	**€2,450.–**
Online Confirmed dates	22 Feb 2027	26 Feb 2027	**€1,250.–**
London Confirmed dates	1 Mar 2027	5 Mar 2027	**€2,450.–**
Online Confirmed dates	1 Mar 2027	5 Mar 2027	**€1,250.–**
Dubai Confirmed dates	15 Mar 2027	19 Mar 2027	**€3,150.–**
Online Confirmed dates	15 Mar 2027	19 Mar 2027	**€1,250.–**
Frankfurt Confirmed dates	5 Apr 2027	9 Apr 2027	**€2,650.–**
Online Confirmed dates	5 Apr 2027	9 Apr 2027	**€1,250.–**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (EUR)
Kuala Lumpur Confirmed dates	19 Apr 2027	23 Apr 2027	**€1,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	19 Apr 2027	23 Apr 2027	**€1,250.-**
Vienna Confirmed dates	26 Apr 2027	30 Apr 2027	**€2,940.-**
Online Confirmed dates	26 Apr 2027	30 Apr 2027	**€1,250.-**
Paris Confirmed dates	3 May 2027	7 May 2027	**€2,860.-**
Online Confirmed dates	3 May 2027	7 May 2027	**€1,250.-**
Istanbul Confirmed dates	17 May 2027	21 May 2027	**€2,650.-**
Online Confirmed dates	17 May 2027	21 May 2027	**€1,250.-**
Amsterdam Confirmed dates	7 Jun 2027	11 Jun 2027	**€2,540.-**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (EUR)
Online Confirmed dates	7 Jun 2027	11 Jun 2027	**€1,250.-**
Singapore Confirmed dates	21 Jun 2027	25 Jun 2027	**€2,820.-**
Online Confirmed dates	21 Jun 2027	25 Jun 2027	**€1,250.-**
Barcelona Confirmed dates	28 Jun 2027	2 Jul 2027	**€2,840.-**
Online Confirmed dates	28 Jun 2027	2 Jul 2027	**€1,250.-**
London Confirmed dates	5 Jul 2027	9 Jul 2027	**€2,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	5 Jul 2027	9 Jul 2027	**€1,250.-**
Dubai Confirmed dates	19 Jul 2027	23 Jul 2027	**€3,150.-**
Online Confirmed dates	19 Jul 2027	23 Jul 2027	**€1,250.-**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (EUR)
Frankfurt Confirmed dates	2 Aug 2027	6 Aug 2027	**€2,650.-**
Online Confirmed dates	2 Aug 2027	6 Aug 2027	**€1,250.-**
Kuala Lumpur Confirmed dates	16 Aug 2027	20 Aug 2027	**€1,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	16 Aug 2027	20 Aug 2027	**€1,250.-**
Rome Confirmed dates	30 Aug 2027	3 Sept 2027	**€2,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	30 Aug 2027	3 Sept 2027	**€1,250.-**
Paris Confirmed dates	6 Sept 2027	10 Sept 2027	**€2,860.-**
Online Confirmed dates	6 Sept 2027	10 Sept 2027	**€1,250.-**
Istanbul Confirmed dates	20 Sept 2027	24 Sept 2027	**€2,650.-**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (EUR)
Online Confirmed dates	20 Sept 2027	24 Sept 2027	**€1,250.-**
Amsterdam Confirmed dates	4 Oct 2027	8 Oct 2027	**€2,540.-**
Online Confirmed dates	4 Oct 2027	8 Oct 2027	**€1,250.-**
Singapore Confirmed dates	18 Oct 2027	22 Oct 2027	**€2,820.-**
Online Confirmed dates	18 Oct 2027	22 Oct 2027	**€1,250.-**
Cape Town Confirmed dates	25 Oct 2027	29 Oct 2027	**€1,890.-**
Online Confirmed dates	25 Oct 2027	29 Oct 2027	**€1,250.-**
London Confirmed dates	1 Nov 2027	5 Nov 2027	**€2,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	1 Nov 2027	5 Nov 2027	**€1,250.-**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (EUR)
Dubai Confirmed dates	15 Nov 2027	19 Nov 2027	**€3,150.–**
Online Confirmed dates	15 Nov 2027	19 Nov 2027	**€1,250.–**
Frankfurt Confirmed dates	6 Dec 2027	10 Dec 2027	**€2,650.–**
Online Confirmed dates	6 Dec 2027	10 Dec 2027	**€1,250.–**
Kuala Lumpur Confirmed dates	13 Dec 2027	17 Dec 2027	**€1,450.–**
Online Confirmed dates	13 Dec 2027	17 Dec 2027	**€1,250.–**



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Plan your next step

Dates, availability, exact venue, taxes, inclusions and payment terms require written confirmation. This brochure is not a quotation, registration, booking confirmation or visa invitation. Participants receive a Smart Horizon certificate of attendance; programmes are not externally accredited and do not award a professional qualification or designation. Confirm arrangements before booking travel.

For group or in-house training, contact our learning team to discuss your objectives and delivery arrangements.

Contact Smart Horizon

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