

FINANCE & ACCOUNTING | COURSE BROCHURE

Developing, Improving & Monitoring the Internal Audit Function

5 days | Classroom training | English

SMART HORIZON

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Course content

Why attend

This course focuses on enhancing the internal audit function within organisations. Participants will learn to develop, improve, and monitor audit processes, ensuring compliance and effectiveness in risk management and governance. Practical applications will empower professionals to elevate their audit capabilities and organisational integrity.

Internal audit functions are critical for ensuring compliance and effective risk management within organisations. Many professionals encounter challenges in developing robust audit processes that align with organisational goals and stakeholder expectations. This course addresses these challenges by equipping participants with the skills to enhance their internal audit functions, ensuring they can effectively monitor and improve audit performance. Participants will engage in practical exercises that simulate real-world scenarios, allowing them to develop actionable strategies for their organisations. By focusing on specific tasks such as risk assessment, audit planning, and performance monitoring, attendees will gain the capabilities needed to make informed decisions that strengthen their internal audit functions and contribute to overall organisational success.
The ability to develop and monitor an effective internal audit function is essential for organisational integrity and risk management. Participants will learn to design comprehensive audit plans, establish performance metrics, and implement continuous improvement strategies. This course will provide the tools to assess compliance with regulations and standards, ensuring that audit processes are not only effective but also aligned with best practices. By participating in workshops and collaborative activities, attendees will practice critical decision-making skills and enhance their ability to communicate audit findings to stakeholders. This hands-on approach ensures that participants leave with practical knowledge and resources to implement in their own organisations.

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 case studies, interactive workshops, and practical simulations to build participants' capabilities in internal auditing. Each day includes targeted exercises that require participants to apply learned concepts to realistic scenarios, producing tangible outputs such as audit plans and performance metrics. Participants will engage in group discussions to share insights and best practices, enhancing collaborative learning. This hands-on approach ensures that participants not only understand theoretical frameworks but also gain practical experience in developing and monitoring audit functions effectively. By the end of the course, participants will have created valuable work products that can be directly applied to their organisations.



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Course objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:
• Analyse the current state of the internal audit function and identify areas for improvement.
• Design a comprehensive internal audit plan that aligns with organisational objectives.
• Assess risk management processes and their integration with audit activities.
• Implement performance metrics to monitor the effectiveness of the internal audit function.
• Evaluate compliance with relevant regulations and standards within the audit process.
• Construct a continuous improvement framework for the internal audit function.

Target audience

This course is suitable for:
• Internal auditors seeking to enhance their audit processes and effectiveness.
• Audit managers responsible for overseeing audit functions and teams.
• Compliance officers focused on ensuring adherence to regulations and standards.
• Risk management professionals involved in integrating audit and risk strategies.

Target competencies

Participants will develop competencies in:
• Conducting thorough risk assessments to inform audit planning.
• Developing strategic audit plans aligned with business objectives.
• Implementing performance metrics for continuous audit improvement.
• Evaluating compliance with regulatory standards in audit processes.
• Facilitating effective communication between audit teams and stakeholders.
• Utilising data analytics to enhance audit effectiveness.

Course outline

Day 1: Understanding the Internal Audit Landscape

Applied activity: Participants will conduct a SWOT analysis of their current internal audit function, identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. They will discuss findings in small groups to gain diverse perspectives and develop a shared understanding of improvement areas.
Output: SWOT analysis report detailing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

09:00–09:54	Defining the role and importance of internal audit in organisations and governance.
09:54–10:48	Exploring the regulatory framework governing internal audits and compliance requirements.



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10:48–11:00	Identifying key stakeholders and their expectations of the audit function and reporting.
11:00–11:30	**Coffee break**
11:30–12:12	Identifying key stakeholders and their expectations of the audit function and reporting. (continued)
12:12–13:06	Assessing the current state of internal audit practices through benchmarking.
13:06–14:00	Understanding common challenges faced by internal audit teams and strategies to overcome them.

Day 2: Developing an Effective Audit Plan

Applied activity: Using a fictional organisation, participants will develop a risk-based audit plan that addresses identified risks and aligns with strategic objectives. They will present their plans to peers for feedback, focusing on clarity and feasibility.
Output: A detailed risk-based audit plan ready for implementation.

09:00–09:54	Establishing audit objectives and scope based on organisational goals and risk appetite.
09:54–10:48	Creating a risk-based audit plan prioritising high-risk areas identified through assessments.
10:48–11:00	Incorporating stakeholder input into the audit planning process for comprehensive coverage.
11:00–11:30	**Coffee break**
11:30–12:12	Incorporating stakeholder input into the audit planning process for comprehensive coverage. (continued)
12:12–13:06	Utilising tools and techniques for effective audit planning, including software and methodologies.
13:06–14:00	Setting timelines and resource allocations for audit activities to ensure efficiency.

Day 3: Monitoring Audit Performance and Compliance

Applied activity: Participants will create a set of KPIs for monitoring their audit function and develop a reporting template for communicating findings to management. They will role-play presenting these findings to a mock board of directors.
Output: KPI framework and a reporting template for audit findings.

09:00–09:54	Defining key performance indicators (KPIs) for audit effectiveness and efficiency measurement.
09:54–10:48	Implementing monitoring processes to assess audit performance and compliance regularly.
10:48–11:00	Evaluating compliance with internal policies and external regulations through audits.
11:00–11:30	**Coffee break**
11:30–12:12	Evaluating compliance with internal policies and external regulations through audits. (continued)



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12:12–13:06	Utilising technology and data analytics in audit monitoring for improved insights.
13:06–14:00	Reporting audit findings and compliance status to stakeholders in a clear and actionable manner.

Day 4: Continuous Improvement in Internal Audit

Applied activity: Participants will design a continuous improvement plan for their internal audit function, incorporating feedback and best practices identified during the course. They will outline specific actions and timelines for implementation.
Output: A comprehensive continuous improvement plan for the audit function.

09:00–09:54	Establishing a culture of continuous improvement within the audit function and organisation.
09:54–10:48	Identifying best practices for enhancing audit processes based on industry standards.
10:48–11:00	Utilising feedback mechanisms to drive improvements and adapt audit strategies.
11:00–11:30	**Coffee break**
11:30–12:12	Utilising feedback mechanisms to drive improvements and adapt audit strategies. (continued)
12:12–13:06	Implementing training and development for audit staff to enhance skills and knowledge.
13:06–14:00	Evaluating the impact of improvements on audit effectiveness and stakeholder satisfaction.

Day 5: Integrating Audit Functions with Risk Management

Applied activity: In teams, participants will develop a comprehensive strategy for integrating internal audit with risk management, addressing potential barriers and solutions. They will present their strategies to the group for critique and refinement.
Output: An integrated audit and risk management strategy document.

09:00–09:54	Understanding the relationship between internal audit and risk management for holistic governance.
09:54–10:48	Developing strategies for integrating audit and risk functions to enhance effectiveness.
10:48–11:00	Assessing the effectiveness of risk management processes and their alignment with audits.
11:00–11:30	**Coffee break**
11:30–12:12	Assessing the effectiveness of risk management processes and their alignment with audits. (continued)
12:12–13:06	Utilising audit findings to inform risk management decisions and strategies.
13:06–14:00	Creating a collaborative framework for audit and risk teams to ensure synergy.



Course content

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)
Istanbul Confirmed dates	9 Nov 2026	13 Nov 2026	**€2,650.-**
Online Confirmed dates	9 Nov 2026	13 Nov 2026	**€1,250.-**
Amsterdam Confirmed dates	23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	**€2,540.-**
Online Confirmed dates	23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	**€1,250.-**
Singapore Confirmed dates	7 Dec 2026	11 Dec 2026	**€2,820.-**
Online Confirmed dates	7 Dec 2026	11 Dec 2026	**€1,250.-**
London Confirmed dates	14 Dec 2026	18 Dec 2026	**€2,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	14 Dec 2026	18 Dec 2026	**€1,250.-**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (EUR)
Dubai Confirmed dates	11 Jan 2027	15 Jan 2027	**€3,150.–**
Online Confirmed dates	11 Jan 2027	15 Jan 2027	**€1,250.–**
Barcelona Confirmed dates	18 Jan 2027	22 Jan 2027	**€2,840.–**
Online Confirmed dates	18 Jan 2027	22 Jan 2027	**€1,250.–**
Frankfurt Confirmed dates	25 Jan 2027	29 Jan 2027	**€2,650.–**
Online Confirmed dates	25 Jan 2027	29 Jan 2027	**€1,250.–**
Kuala Lumpur Confirmed dates	8 Feb 2027	12 Feb 2027	**€1,450.–**
Online Confirmed dates	8 Feb 2027	12 Feb 2027	**€1,250.–**
Paris Confirmed dates	22 Feb 2027	26 Feb 2027	**€2,860.–**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (EUR)
Online Confirmed dates	22 Feb 2027	26 Feb 2027	**€1,250.-**
Istanbul Confirmed dates	8 Mar 2027	12 Mar 2027	**€2,650.-**
Online Confirmed dates	8 Mar 2027	12 Mar 2027	**€1,250.-**
Amsterdam Confirmed dates	22 Mar 2027	26 Mar 2027	**€2,540.-**
Online Confirmed dates	22 Mar 2027	26 Mar 2027	**€1,250.-**
Cape Town Confirmed dates	29 Mar 2027	2 Apr 2027	**€1,890.-**
Online Confirmed dates	29 Mar 2027	2 Apr 2027	**€1,250.-**
Singapore Confirmed dates	12 Apr 2027	16 Apr 2027	**€2,820.-**
Online Confirmed dates	12 Apr 2027	16 Apr 2027	**€1,250.-**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (EUR)
London Confirmed dates	26 Apr 2027	30 Apr 2027	**€2,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	26 Apr 2027	30 Apr 2027	**€1,250.-**
Dubai Confirmed dates	10 May 2027	14 May 2027	**€3,150.-**
Online Confirmed dates	10 May 2027	14 May 2027	**€1,250.-**
Frankfurt Confirmed dates	24 May 2027	28 May 2027	**€2,650.-**
Online Confirmed dates	24 May 2027	28 May 2027	**€1,250.-**
Rome Confirmed dates	31 May 2027	4 Jun 2027	**€2,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	31 May 2027	4 Jun 2027	**€1,250.-**
Kuala Lumpur Confirmed dates	14 Jun 2027	18 Jun 2027	**€1,450.-**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (EUR)
Online Confirmed dates	14 Jun 2027	18 Jun 2027	**€1,250.–**
Paris Confirmed dates	21 Jun 2027	25 Jun 2027	**€2,860.–**
Online Confirmed dates	21 Jun 2027	25 Jun 2027	**€1,250.–**
Istanbul Confirmed dates	12 Jul 2027	16 Jul 2027	**€2,650.–**
Online Confirmed dates	12 Jul 2027	16 Jul 2027	**€1,250.–**
Vienna Confirmed dates	19 Jul 2027	23 Jul 2027	**€2,940.–**
Online Confirmed dates	19 Jul 2027	23 Jul 2027	**€1,250.–**
Amsterdam Confirmed dates	26 Jul 2027	30 Jul 2027	**€2,540.–**
Online Confirmed dates	26 Jul 2027	30 Jul 2027	**€1,250.–**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (EUR)
Singapore Confirmed dates	9 Aug 2027	13 Aug 2027	**€2,820.-**
Online Confirmed dates	9 Aug 2027	13 Aug 2027	**€1,250.-**
London Confirmed dates	23 Aug 2027	27 Aug 2027	**€2,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	23 Aug 2027	27 Aug 2027	**€1,250.-**
Dubai Confirmed dates	13 Sept 2027	17 Sept 2027	**€3,150.-**
Online Confirmed dates	13 Sept 2027	17 Sept 2027	**€1,250.-**
Frankfurt Confirmed dates	20 Sept 2027	24 Sept 2027	**€2,650.-**
Online Confirmed dates	20 Sept 2027	24 Sept 2027	**€1,250.-**
Cape Town Confirmed dates	27 Sept 2027	1 Oct 2027	**€1,890.-**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (EUR)
Online Confirmed dates	27 Sept 2027	1 Oct 2027	**€1,250.–**
Kuala Lumpur Confirmed dates	11 Oct 2027	15 Oct 2027	**€1,450.–**
Online Confirmed dates	11 Oct 2027	15 Oct 2027	**€1,250.–**
Paris Confirmed dates	25 Oct 2027	29 Oct 2027	**€2,860.–**
Online Confirmed dates	25 Oct 2027	29 Oct 2027	**€1,250.–**
Istanbul Confirmed dates	8 Nov 2027	12 Nov 2027	**€2,650.–**
Online Confirmed dates	8 Nov 2027	12 Nov 2027	**€1,250.–**
Amsterdam Confirmed dates	22 Nov 2027	26 Nov 2027	**€2,540.–**
Online Confirmed dates	22 Nov 2027	26 Nov 2027	**€1,250.–**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (EUR)
Rome Confirmed dates	29 Nov 2027	3 Dec 2027	**€2,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	29 Nov 2027	3 Dec 2027	**€1,250.-**
Singapore Confirmed dates	6 Dec 2027	10 Dec 2027	**€2,820.-**
Online Confirmed dates	6 Dec 2027	10 Dec 2027	**€1,250.-**
London Confirmed dates	13 Dec 2027	17 Dec 2027	**€2,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	13 Dec 2027	17 Dec 2027	**€1,250.-**



Course content

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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