

FINANCE & ACCOUNTING | COURSE BROCHURE

Management Accounting and Cost Control

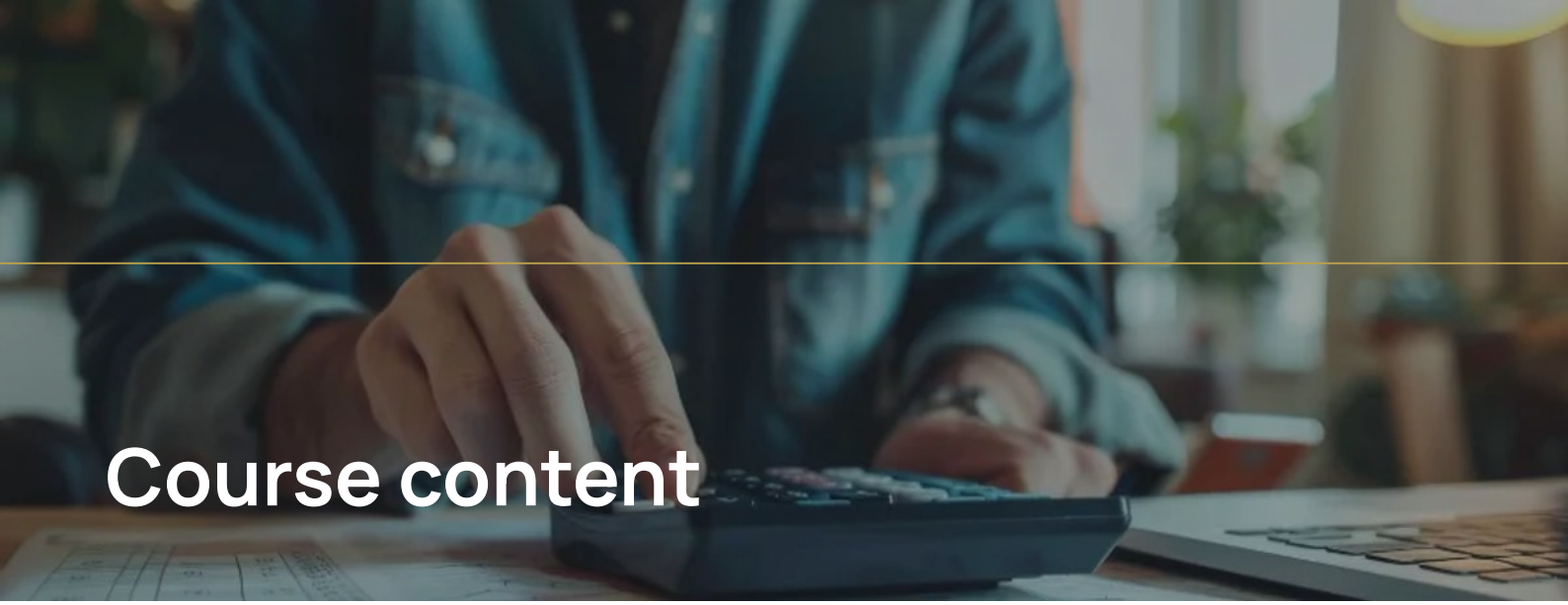
5 days | Classroom training | English

SMART HORIZON

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Amsterdam
The Netherlands

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Course content

Why attend

This course equips professionals with essential management accounting techniques and cost control strategies to enhance financial decision-making. Participants will learn to analyse costs, prepare budgets, and implement effective control measures, ultimately driving efficiency and profitability within their organisations.

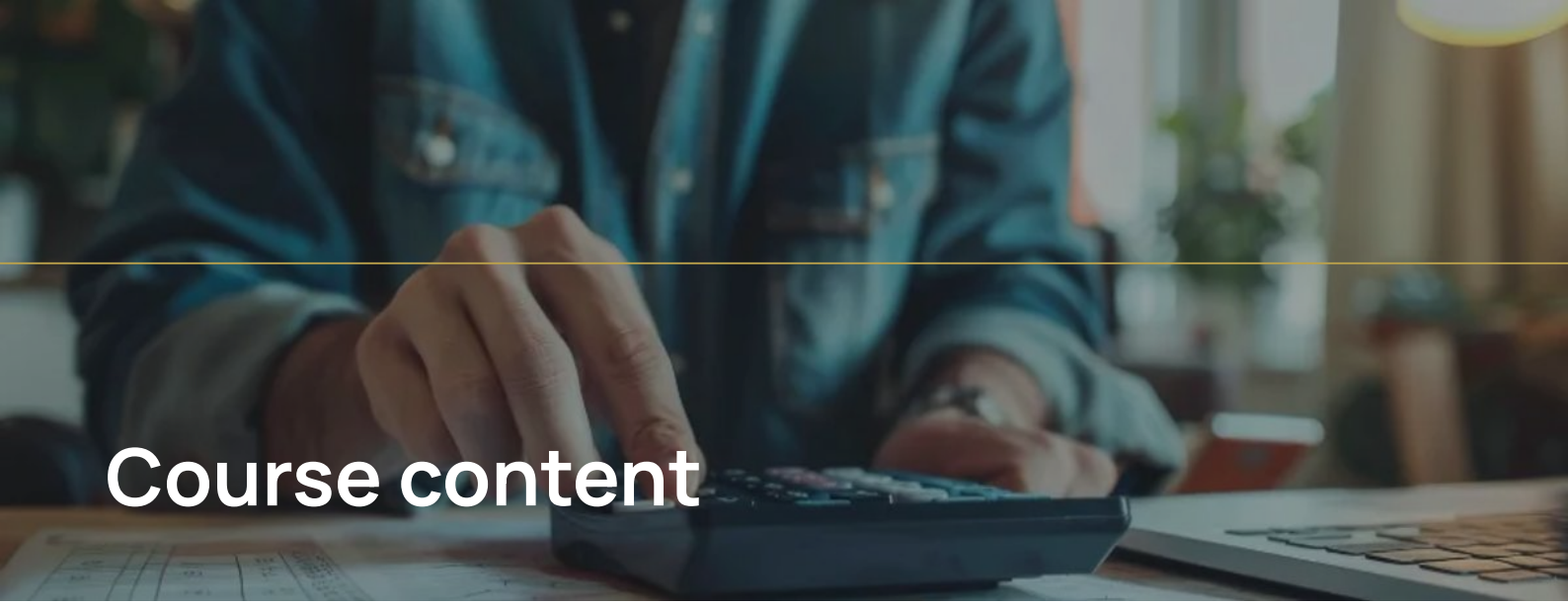
Management accounting and cost control are critical for informed decision-making in any organisation. Professionals often face challenges in accurately tracking costs, preparing budgets, and analysing financial performance. These skills are essential for identifying inefficiencies, optimising resource allocation, and ensuring compliance with financial regulations, which directly impacts profitability. Participants will learn to navigate complex financial data, assess cost behaviour, and implement effective budgeting strategies, which are crucial for maintaining competitive advantage and ensuring sustainable growth in their organisations. By mastering these techniques, they will be better positioned to influence strategic decisions and contribute to organisational success.
Participants will develop practical capabilities in budgeting, cost analysis, and variance reporting. They will engage in real-world scenarios that require them to apply management accounting principles to make informed financial decisions. This hands-on approach ensures that participants can implement what they learn in their roles, leading to improved financial oversight and strategic planning. By mastering these skills, professionals will be better equipped to contribute to their organisations' financial health, making them invaluable assets in their respective fields. They will also learn to communicate financial insights effectively to stakeholders, enhancing their influence within their organisations.

Professional Problems This Course Is Designed to Solve

• Unclear cost behaviour and profitability drivers.
• Cost allocations that do not support management decisions.
• Budget variances without effective investigation or corrective action.

Course methodology

The course employs a blend of case studies, practical exercises, and group discussions to facilitate learning. Participants will engage in budgeting simulations, cost analysis workshops, and variance reporting exercises. Each session culminates in the creation of specific financial documents, such as budgets and cost reports, providing tangible outputs that can be applied in their professional environments. Additionally, participants will collaborate in teams to solve complex financial scenarios, enhancing their analytical skills and fostering a deeper understanding of management accounting principles. This interactive approach ensures that participants not only learn theoretical concepts but also gain practical experience relevant to their roles.



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Course objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:
• Analyse cost behaviour patterns to inform pricing strategies and operational decisions.
• Prepare comprehensive budgets aligned with organisational goals and financial forecasts.
• Calculate variances between budgeted and actual costs for performance evaluation and corrective action.
• Design cost control measures to enhance operational efficiency and reduce waste.
• Assess the impact of fixed and variable costs on overall profitability and decision-making processes.
• Construct financial reports that support strategic decision-making and stakeholder communication.

Target audience

This course is suitable for:
• Financial analysts responsible for budgeting and forecasting.
• Cost accountants tasked with monitoring and controlling costs.
• Managers seeking to improve financial performance in their departments.
• Business owners aiming to optimise resource allocation and profitability.

Target competencies

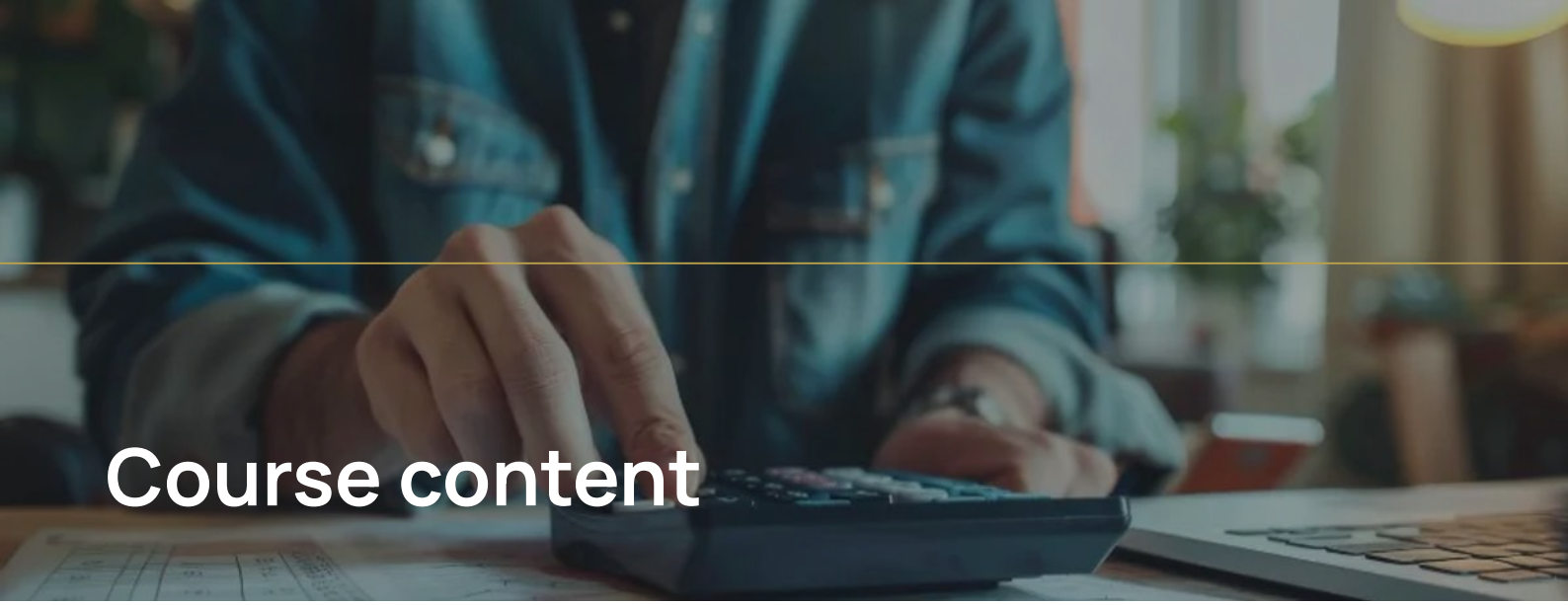
Participants will develop competencies in:
• Budget preparation and management skills.
• Cost analysis and reporting capabilities.
• Variance analysis and interpretation expertise.
• Strategic financial decision-making proficiency.
• Operational efficiency improvement techniques.
• Financial performance evaluation methods.

Course outline

Day 1: Understanding Management Accounting Fundamentals

Applied activity: Participants will analyse a fictional company's cost structure and prepare a basic cost report, identifying fixed and variable costs while discussing their implications for pricing and budgeting decisions. They will also evaluate how these costs affect overall financial strategy.
Output: A detailed cost report highlighting cost behaviour patterns and recommendations.

09:00–09:54	Define management accounting and its role in decision-making processes.
09:54–10:48	Explore key concepts: cost behaviour, fixed vs variable costs, and direct vs indirect costs.



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10:48–11:00	Identify the components of a cost accounting system and their relevance to management.
11:00–11:30	Coffee break
11:30–12:12	Identify the components of a cost accounting system and their relevance to management. (continued)
12:12–13:06	Discuss the importance of budgeting in management accounting and its impact on financial health.
13:06–14:00	Examine the relationship between management accounting and financial accounting practices.

Day 2: Budgeting Techniques and Preparation

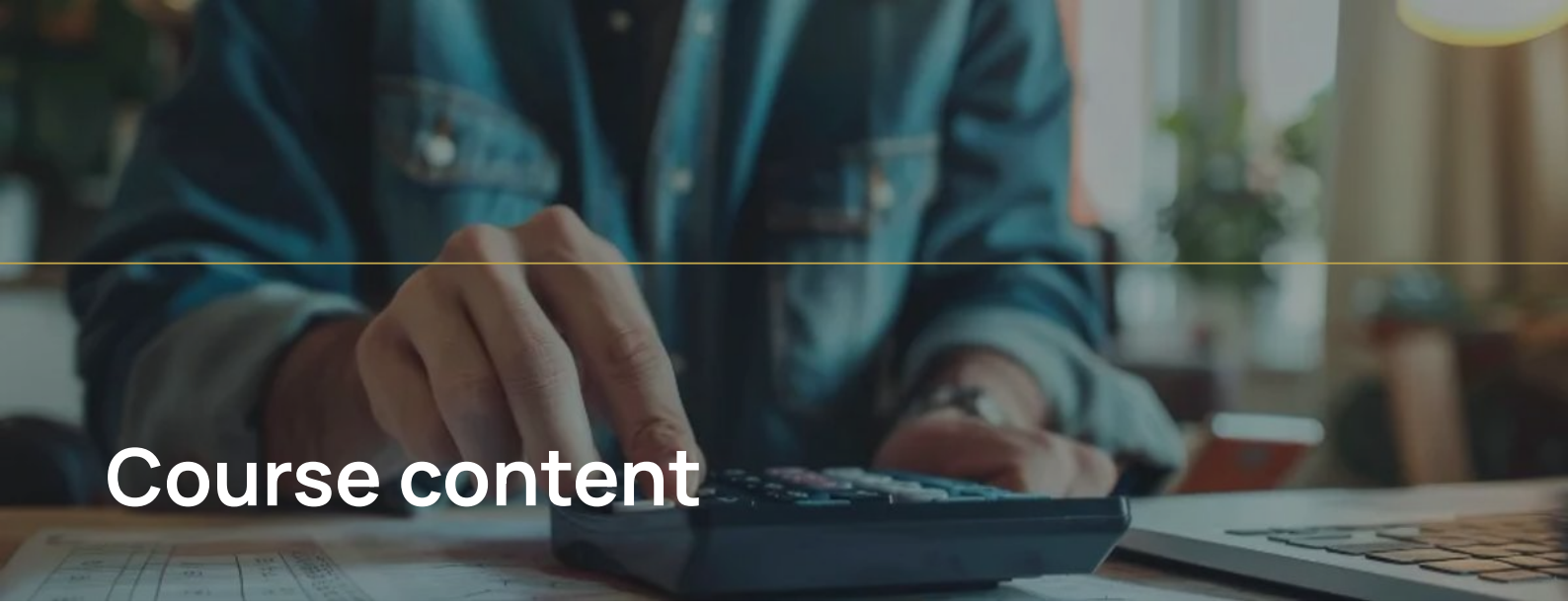
Applied activity: Using provided data, participants will prepare an operational budget for a fictional department, incorporating revenue and expense forecasts. They will justify their assumptions based on market analysis and present their budget to a mock board for feedback.
Output: A comprehensive operational budget document with detailed justifications.

09:00–09:54	Differentiate between types of budgets: operational, capital, and cash flow, and their specific applications.
09:54–10:48	Learn the steps for effective budget preparation, including stakeholder involvement and data collection.
10:48–11:00	Explore zero-based budgeting and its applications in resource allocation and cost management.
11:00–11:30	Coffee break
11:30–12:12	Explore zero-based budgeting and its applications in resource allocation and cost management. (continued)
12:12–13:06	Discuss the role of forecasting in the budgeting process and its impact on financial planning.
13:06–14:00	Examine common budgeting pitfalls and how to avoid them through best practices.

Day 3: Cost Control Strategies and Tools

Applied activity: Participants will conduct a variance analysis on a fictional company's budget versus actual costs, identifying areas for improvement. They will propose corrective actions based on their findings and prepare a presentation to communicate these recommendations effectively.
Output: A variance analysis report with actionable recommendations for cost control.

09:00–09:54	Identify key cost control techniques and their applications in various organisational contexts.
09:54–10:48	Learn to implement standard costing and its benefits for performance measurement.



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10:48–11:00	Explore the use of variance analysis for cost control and its role in identifying discrepancies.
11:00–11:30	Coffee break
11:30–12:12	Explore the use of variance analysis for cost control and its role in identifying discrepancies. (continued)
12:12–13:06	Discuss the role of performance metrics in cost management and continuous improvement.
13:06–14:00	Examine case studies of successful cost control implementations and lessons learned.

Day 4: Advanced Cost Analysis Techniques

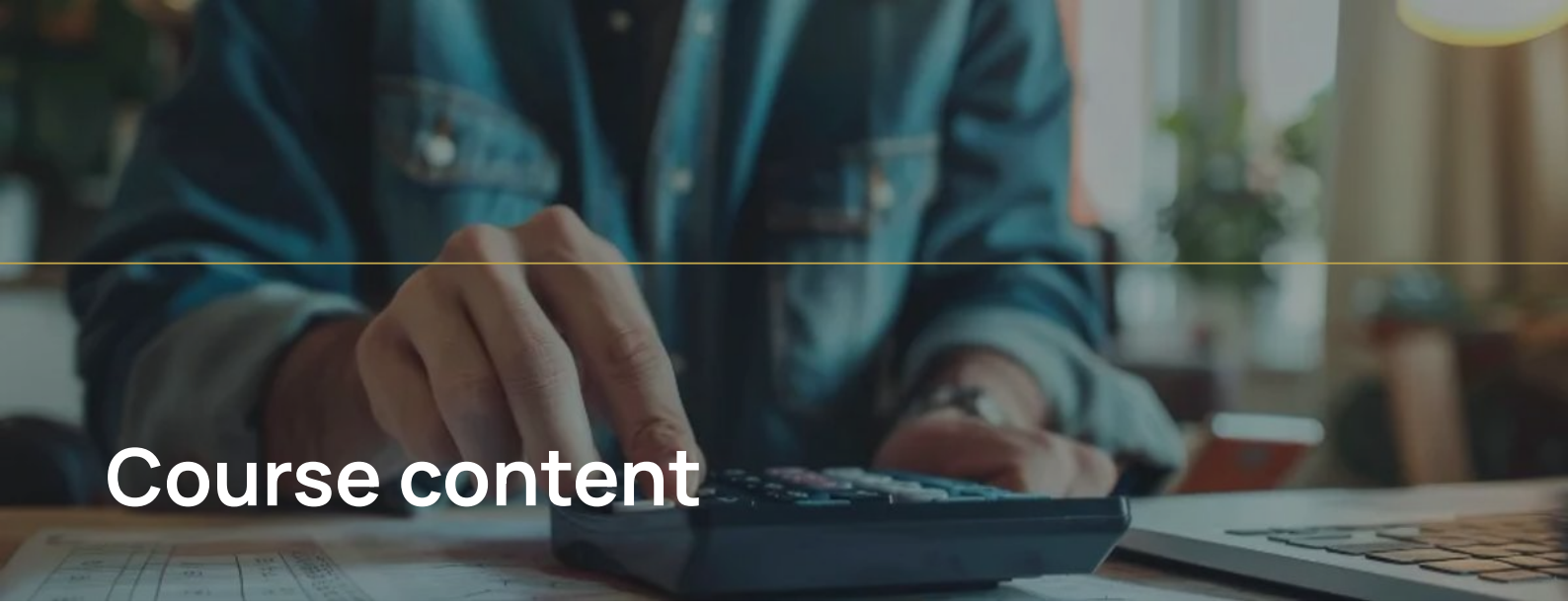
Applied activity: Participants will use ABC to allocate costs for a fictional product line, calculate the break-even point, and assess the financial viability of new product introductions. They will present their findings to the group, discussing the implications for pricing strategy.
Output: A cost allocation report and break-even analysis summary with strategic insights.

09:00–09:54	Explore activity-based costing (ABC) and its advantages for accurate cost allocation.
09:54–10:48	Learn to allocate overhead costs effectively using ABC and its impact on product pricing.
10:48–11:00	Discuss the implications of cost-volume-profit analysis for strategic decision-making.
11:00–11:30	Coffee break
11:30–12:12	Discuss the implications of cost-volume-profit analysis for strategic decision-making. (continued)
12:12–13:06	Examine the role of relevant costs in decision-making scenarios and their importance in managerial accounting.
13:06–14:00	Apply break-even analysis to real-world scenarios to determine profitability thresholds.

Day 5: Integrated Financial Decision-Making

Applied activity: Participants will work in groups to develop a financial model for a fictional project, incorporating budgeting, cost control, and decision-making processes. They will consider ethical implications and future trends while preparing their model for presentation.
Output: A comprehensive financial model presentation with strategic recommendations and ethical considerations.

09:00–09:54	Combine management accounting and cost control for strategic planning and resource allocation.
09:54–10:48	Explore the impact of financial decisions on organisational performance and stakeholder value.
10:48–11:00	Learn to develop financial models for decision-making, incorporating risk assessment and sensitivity analysis.



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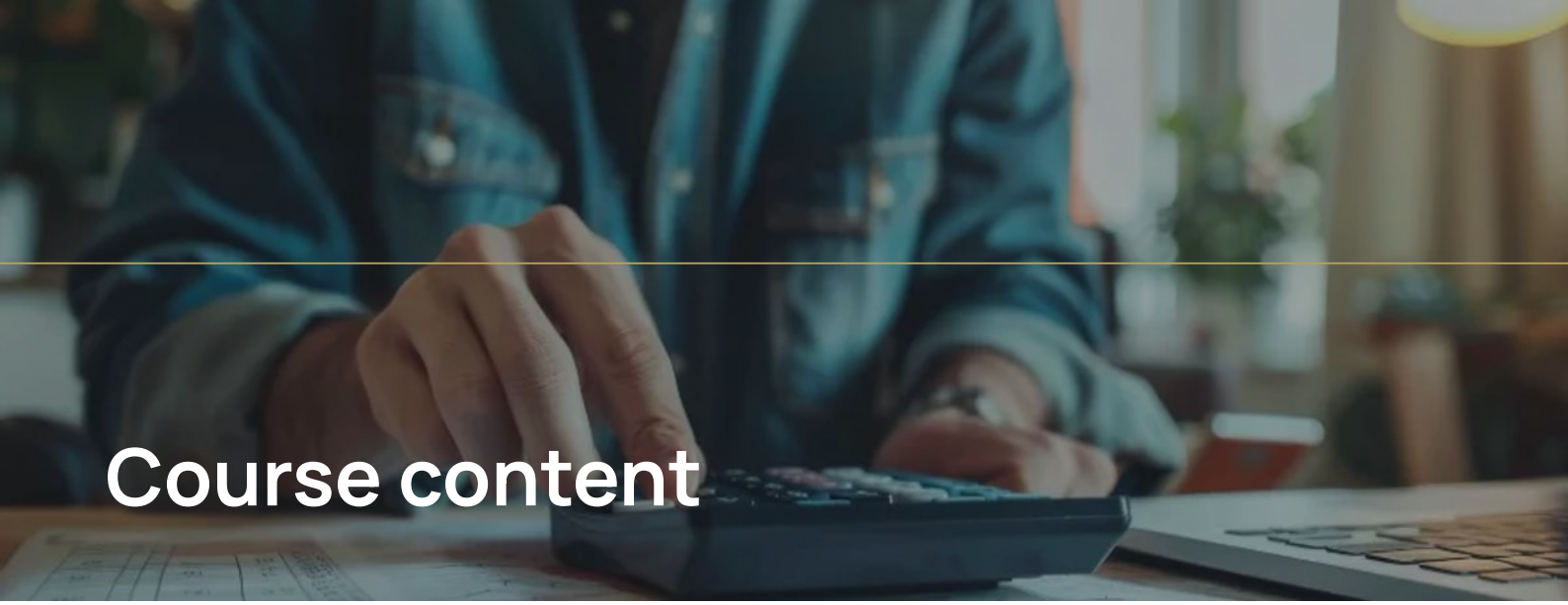
11:00–11:30	**Coffee break**
11:30–12:12	Learn to develop financial models for decision-making, incorporating risk assessment and sensitivity analysis. (continued)
12:12–13:06	Discuss ethical considerations in management accounting and the importance of integrity in financial reporting.
13:06–14:00	Prepare for future trends in management accounting and cost control, including technology's role in data analysis.

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.

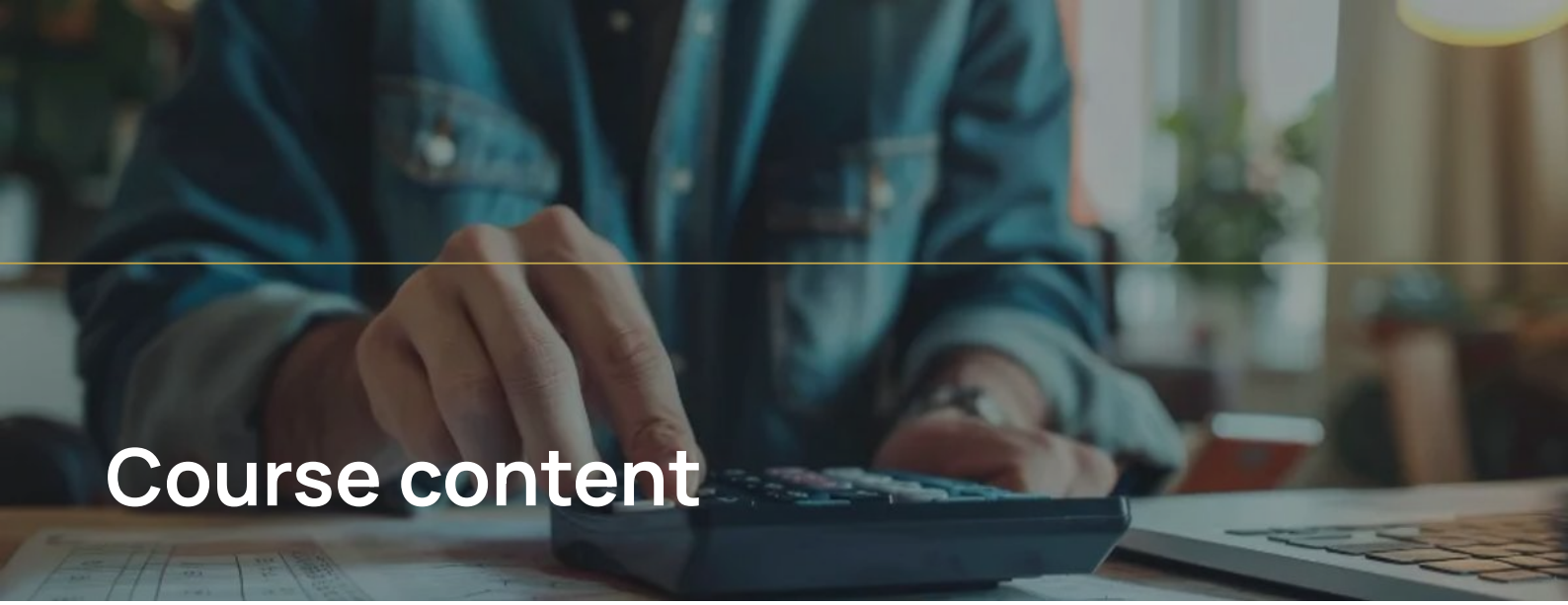
Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (EUR)
Singapore Confirmed dates	9 Nov 2026	13 Nov 2026	**€2,820.-**
Online Confirmed dates	9 Nov 2026	13 Nov 2026	**€1,250.-**
London Confirmed dates	23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	**€2,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	**€1,250.-**
Dubai Confirmed dates	7 Dec 2026	11 Dec 2026	**€3,150.-**
Online Confirmed dates	7 Dec 2026	11 Dec 2026	**€1,250.-**



Course content

Dates, venues and fees (continued)

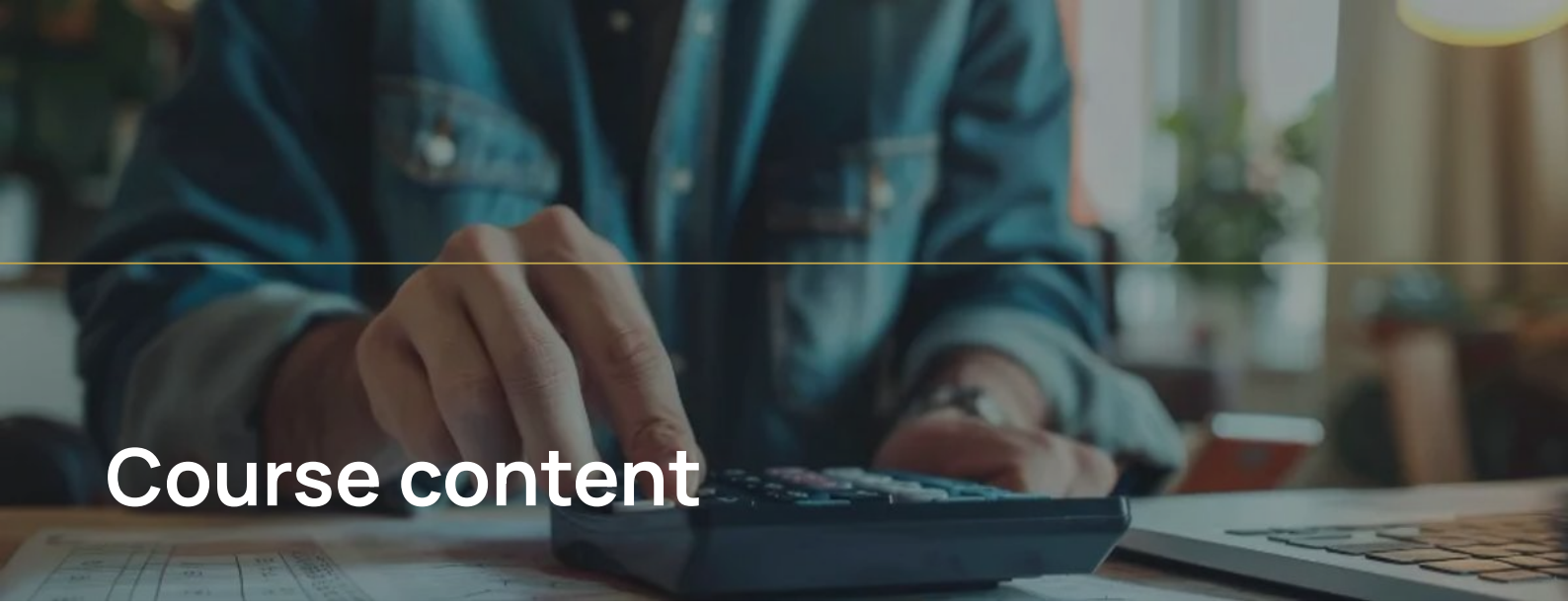
Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (EUR)
Frankfurt Confirmed dates	14 Dec 2026	18 Dec 2026	**€2,650.-**
Online Confirmed dates	14 Dec 2026	18 Dec 2026	**€1,250.-**
Kuala Lumpur Confirmed dates	11 Jan 2027	15 Jan 2027	**€1,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	11 Jan 2027	15 Jan 2027	**€1,250.-**
Cape Town Confirmed dates	18 Jan 2027	22 Jan 2027	**€1,890.-**
Online Confirmed dates	18 Jan 2027	22 Jan 2027	**€1,250.-**
Paris Confirmed dates	25 Jan 2027	29 Jan 2027	**€2,860.-**
Online Confirmed dates	25 Jan 2027	29 Jan 2027	**€1,250.-**
Istanbul Confirmed dates	8 Feb 2027	12 Feb 2027	**€2,650.-**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

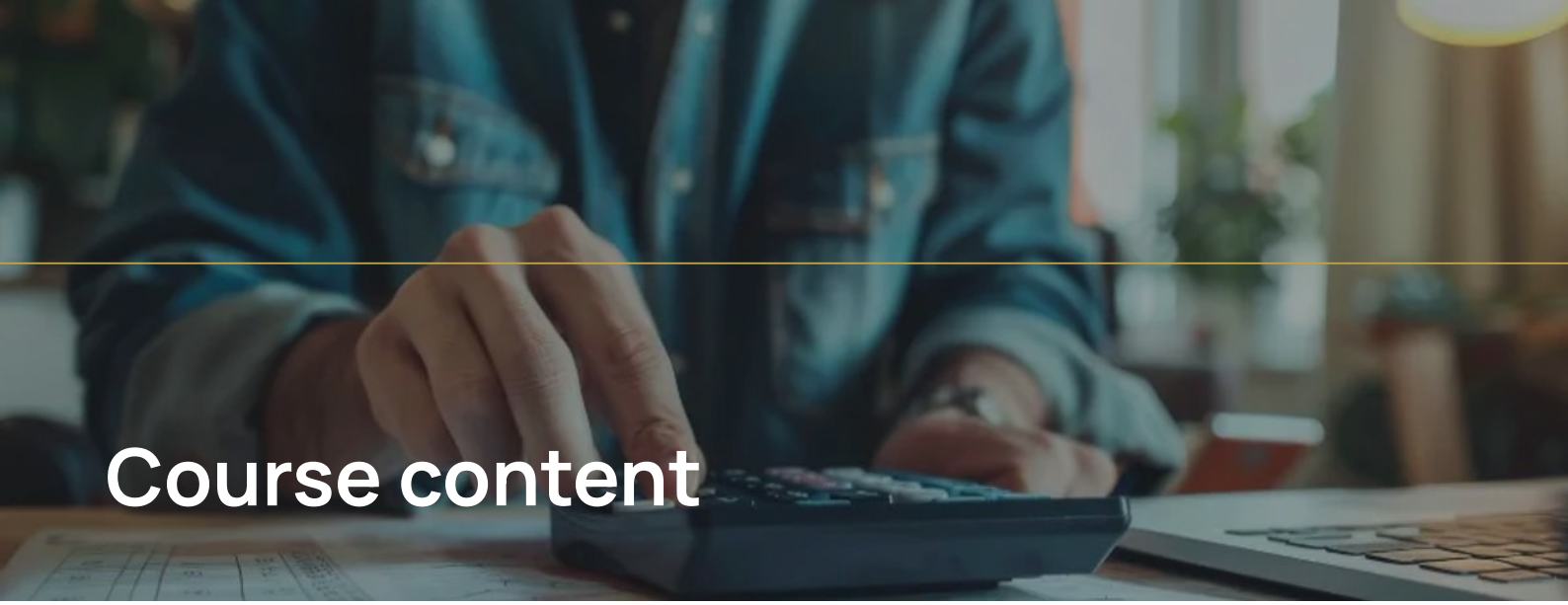
Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (EUR)
Online Confirmed dates	8 Feb 2027	12 Feb 2027	**€1,250.-**
Amsterdam Confirmed dates	22 Feb 2027	26 Feb 2027	**€2,540.-**
Online Confirmed dates	22 Feb 2027	26 Feb 2027	**€1,250.-**
Singapore Confirmed dates	8 Mar 2027	12 Mar 2027	**€2,820.-**
Online Confirmed dates	8 Mar 2027	12 Mar 2027	**€1,250.-**
Rome Confirmed dates	15 Mar 2027	19 Mar 2027	**€2,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	15 Mar 2027	19 Mar 2027	**€1,250.-**
London Confirmed dates	22 Mar 2027	26 Mar 2027	**€2,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	22 Mar 2027	26 Mar 2027	**€1,250.-**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

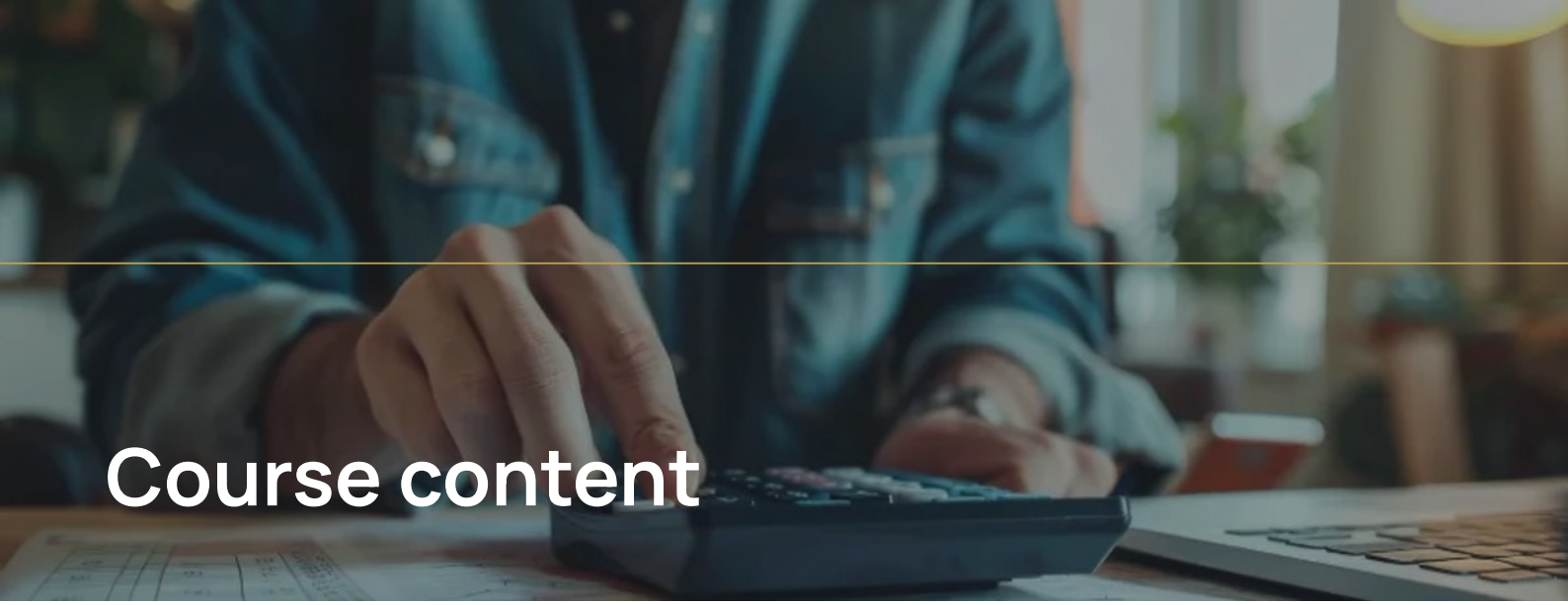
Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (EUR)
Dubai Confirmed dates	12 Apr 2027	16 Apr 2027	**€3,150.-**
Online Confirmed dates	12 Apr 2027	16 Apr 2027	**€1,250.-**
Frankfurt Confirmed dates	26 Apr 2027	30 Apr 2027	**€2,650.-**
Online Confirmed dates	26 Apr 2027	30 Apr 2027	**€1,250.-**
Kuala Lumpur Confirmed dates	10 May 2027	14 May 2027	**€1,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	10 May 2027	14 May 2027	**€1,250.-**
Vienna Confirmed dates	17 May 2027	21 May 2027	**€2,940.-**
Online Confirmed dates	17 May 2027	21 May 2027	**€1,250.-**
Paris Confirmed dates	24 May 2027	28 May 2027	**€2,860.-**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

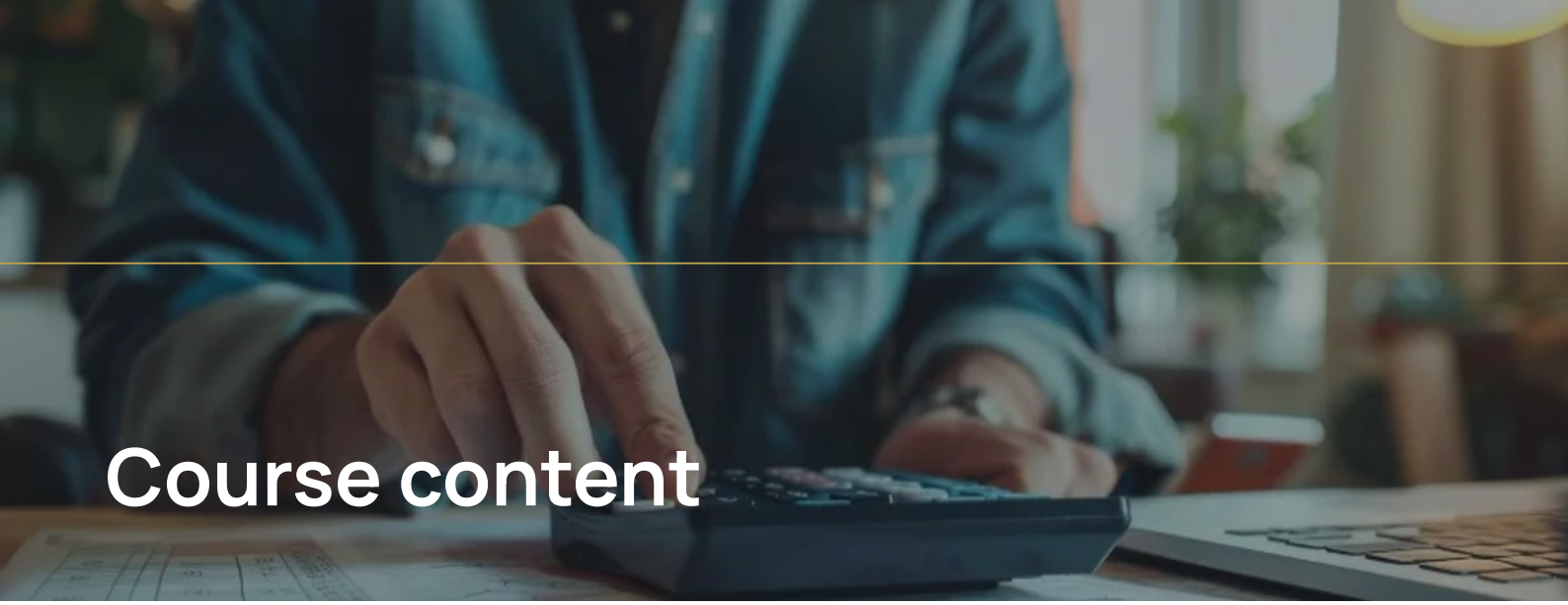
Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (EUR)
Online Confirmed dates	24 May 2027	28 May 2027	**€1,250.-**
Istanbul Confirmed dates	14 Jun 2027	18 Jun 2027	**€2,650.-**
Online Confirmed dates	14 Jun 2027	18 Jun 2027	**€1,250.-**
Amsterdam Confirmed dates	21 Jun 2027	25 Jun 2027	**€2,540.-**
Online Confirmed dates	21 Jun 2027	25 Jun 2027	**€1,250.-**
Singapore Confirmed dates	12 Jul 2027	16 Jul 2027	**€2,820.-**
Online Confirmed dates	12 Jul 2027	16 Jul 2027	**€1,250.-**
Barcelona Confirmed dates	19 Jul 2027	23 Jul 2027	**€2,840.-**
Online Confirmed dates	19 Jul 2027	23 Jul 2027	**€1,250.-**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

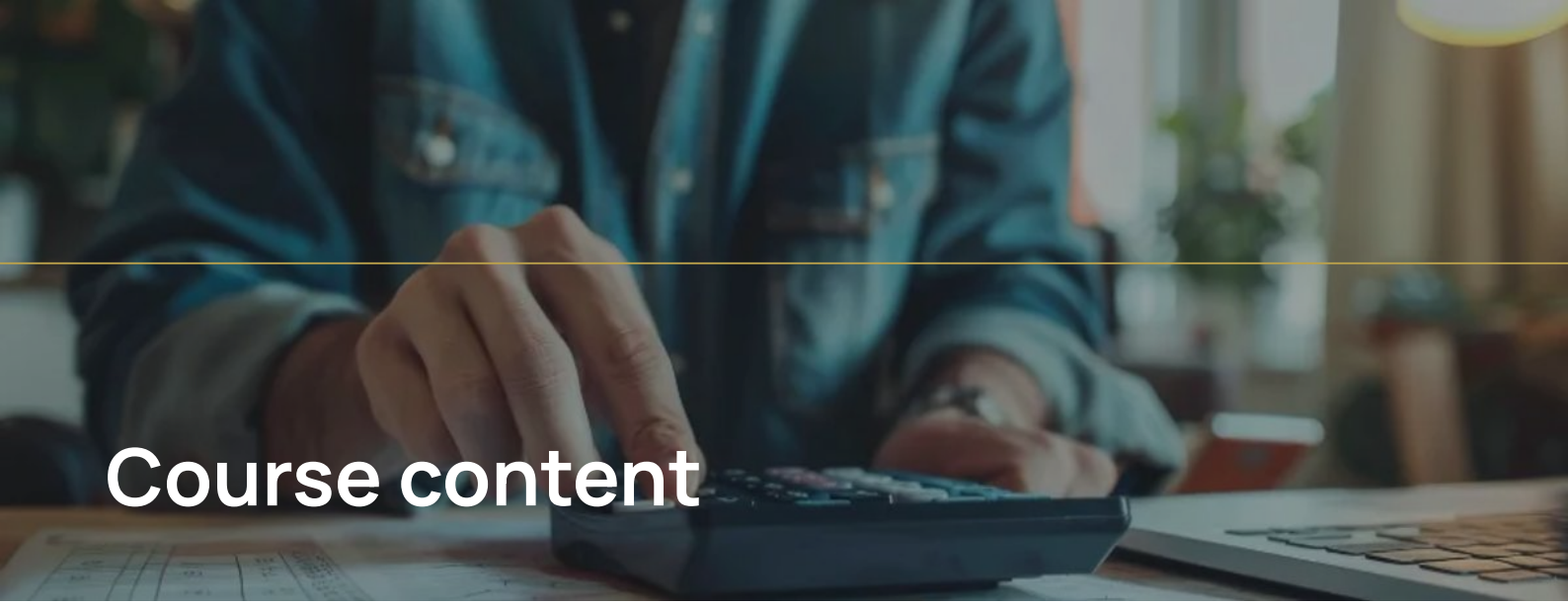
Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (EUR)
London Confirmed dates	26 Jul 2027	30 Jul 2027	**€2,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	26 Jul 2027	30 Jul 2027	**€1,250.-**
Dubai Confirmed dates	9 Aug 2027	13 Aug 2027	**€3,150.-**
Online Confirmed dates	9 Aug 2027	13 Aug 2027	**€1,250.-**
Frankfurt Confirmed dates	23 Aug 2027	27 Aug 2027	**€2,650.-**
Online Confirmed dates	23 Aug 2027	27 Aug 2027	**€1,250.-**
Cape Town Confirmed dates	6 Sept 2027	10 Sept 2027	**€1,890.-**
Online Confirmed dates	6 Sept 2027	10 Sept 2027	**€1,250.-**
Kuala Lumpur Confirmed dates	13 Sept 2027	17 Sept 2027	**€1,450.-**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

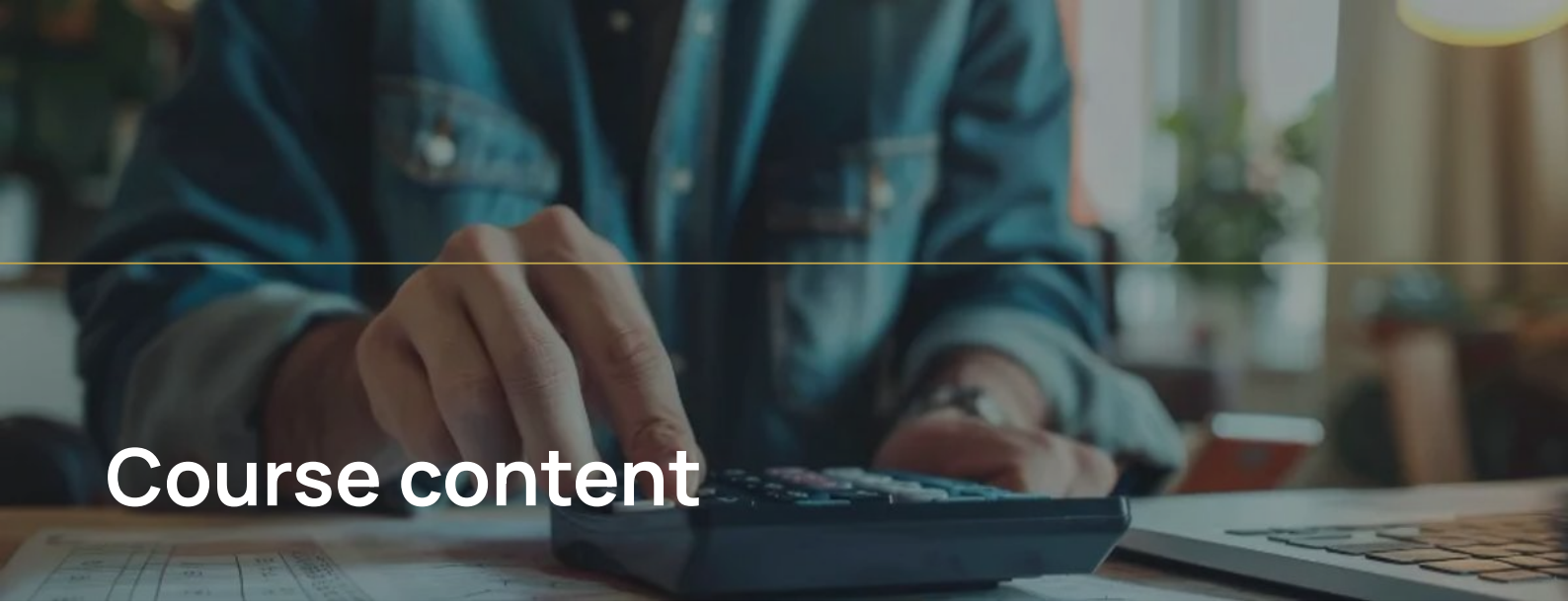
Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (EUR)
Online Confirmed dates	13 Sept 2027	17 Sept 2027	**€1,250.-**
Paris Confirmed dates	20 Sept 2027	24 Sept 2027	**€2,860.-**
Online Confirmed dates	20 Sept 2027	24 Sept 2027	**€1,250.-**
Istanbul Confirmed dates	11 Oct 2027	15 Oct 2027	**€2,650.-**
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Amsterdam Confirmed dates	25 Oct 2027	29 Oct 2027	**€2,540.-**
Online Confirmed dates	25 Oct 2027	29 Oct 2027	**€1,250.-**
Singapore Confirmed dates	8 Nov 2027	12 Nov 2027	**€2,820.-**
Online Confirmed dates	8 Nov 2027	12 Nov 2027	**€1,250.-**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

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Rome Confirmed dates	15 Nov 2027	19 Nov 2027	**€2,450.-**
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London Confirmed dates	22 Nov 2027	26 Nov 2027	**€2,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	22 Nov 2027	26 Nov 2027	**€1,250.-**
Dubai Confirmed dates	6 Dec 2027	10 Dec 2027	**€3,150.-**
Online Confirmed dates	6 Dec 2027	10 Dec 2027	**€1,250.-**
Frankfurt Confirmed dates	13 Dec 2027	17 Dec 2027	**€2,650.-**
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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