



Risk-Based Internal Audit for Banks

28 March – 1 April 2027
Manama (Bahrain)



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Introduction:

In today's dynamic financial environment, internal auditing has evolved from traditional compliance-focused reviews to a strategic risk-based approach that enhances the effectiveness of governance, risk management, and internal control systems. This Risk-Based Internal Audit for Banks course equips professionals with essential skills to align audit priorities with risk exposure and business objectives.

This Risk-Based Internal Audit for Banks program emphasizes proactive identification and assessment of risks in banking operations, supporting improved decision-making and regulatory compliance. By integrating audit planning with enterprise risk management, participants will develop a forward-looking approach to auditing.

The Risk-Based Internal Audit for Banks training introduces modern tools, data analytics, and automation used in internal audit practices. Participants will explore international standards and frameworks that guide risk-based auditing in banking institutions. It is ideal for those seeking practical and technical competencies in evaluating, designing, and leading internal audits in a risk-based environment.

Targeted Groups:

This Risk-Based Internal Audit for Banks training targets professionals seeking specialized knowledge and skills:

- Internal auditors working in commercial or central banks.
- Risk managers are responsible for operational and credit risk.
- Compliance officers seek to align audits with risk frameworks.
- Audit supervisors and team leads prepare risk-based audit plans.
- Financial controllers ensure audit efficiency and risk mitigation.
- External auditors engaged with banking clients.
- Audit committee members in banking institutions.
- Bank regulators and examiners require insight into risk-based audits.
- Professionals in internal control and governance roles.
- Aspiring auditors transitioning into banking internal audit.

Course Objectives:

Participants will achieve the following objectives by completing the Risk-Based Internal Audit for Banks course:

- Understand the principles of risk-based internal auditing in the banking industry.
- Identify and assess key banking risks to inform audit priorities and audit strategies.
- Develop audit plans aligned with enterprise risk assessments.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of internal control in high-risk areas.
- Apply international auditing standards in banking environments.
- Interpret regulatory expectations and compliance benchmarks.
- Utilize risk indicators and risk appetite when scoping audits.
- Design audit tests tailored to operational, financial, and strategic risks.
- Implement data analytics tools in audit planning and execution to enhance audit effectiveness.
- Enhance reporting practices to reflect risk-based audit findings.
- Strengthen communication with audit committees and regulators.
- Build critical thinking for continuous audit improvement.

Targeted Competencies:

Participants will gain the following competencies during the Risk-Based Internal Audit for Banks program:

- Strategic audit planning using risk-based methodology.
- Risk identification and prioritization techniques.
- Internal control assessment and risk mapping.
- Application of Risk Indicators in Audit Scoping.
- Use of audit analytics in financial institutions.
- Alignment with regulatory and industry standards.
- Communication and presentation of audit results.
- Decision-making based on audit risk findings.
- Integration of governance and assurance functions.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Foundations of Risk-Based Internal Auditing in Banks:

- Introduction to internal auditing in financial institutions.
- Evolution from traditional to risk-based auditing.
- Core principles and attributes of risk-based audit.
- Role of internal audit in governance and risk oversight.
- Overview of banking-specific risks: credit, operational, and market.
- Risk-Based Audit vs. Compliance Audit: Key Differences.
- International auditing frameworks e.g., IIA, Basel, COSO.
- Relationship between risk appetite, tolerance, and audit scope.
- Case study: Internal audit's impact on a bank's risk strategy.

Unit 2: Risk Identification, Assessment, and Audit Planning:

- Techniques for identifying and categorizing banking risks.
- Conducting a comprehensive risk assessment.
- Use of risk matrices and heat maps in audit planning.
- Develop audit universe and risk scoring models.
- Linking the risk register to the audit plan objectives.
- Prioritizing audits based on residual and inherent risk.
- Dynamic audit planning based on emerging risks.
- Coordination with Enterprise Risk Management ERM functions.
- Workshop: Creating a risk-based audit plan for a retail bank.

Unit 3: Executing the Risk-Based Audit in Banking Operations:

- Planning and scoping risk-based audits.
- Setting audit objectives and criteria based on risk.
- Designing audit procedures aligned with risk exposures.
- Selecting sampling methods for high-risk areas.
- Documenting control walkthroughs and risk control matrices.
- Performing control tests and risk response analysis.
- Communicating audit findings with a risk-based focus.
- Applying professional skepticism in audit execution.
- Best practices in audit documentation and fieldwork.

Unit 4: Reporting, Follow-Up, and Stakeholder Engagement:

- Structuring effective risk-based audit reports.
- Communicating risk exposures and control deficiencies.
- Incorporating root cause analysis into audit conclusions.
- Risk-rating audit findings and follow-up prioritization.
- Engaging with senior management and audit committees.
- The Role of Internal Audit in Regulatory Inspections.
- Leveraging dashboards and visual analytics in reporting.
- Recommendations tracking and audit issue closure.
- Templates: Sample risk-based audit report and executive summary.

Unit 5: Advanced Tools, Trends, and Integration with Risk Functions:

- Emerging trends: Agile auditing and continuous risk assessment.
- Use of data analytics in risk-based auditing.
- Integration with fraud risk and anti-money laundering audits.
- Enhancing risk culture through audit insights.
- Use of Key Risk Indicators KRIs in audit decision-making.
- Aligning audit work with strategic objectives.
- Benchmarking with global internal audit practices.
- Case analysis: Audit failures due to weak risk focus.
- Course project: Designing an end-to-end risk-based audit cycle.

Final Insights & Key Takeaways:

Risk-based internal auditing is crucial for banks to ensure effective strategic risk mitigation and robust governance. This Risk-Based Internal Audit for Banks course empowers professionals to enhance audit value through intelligent risk-focused planning and execution. By leveraging tools, frameworks, and insights tailored for banking environments, participants will be ready to lead modern, proactive audit functions. The skills developed will support compliance, transparency, and long-term institutional resilience.