MERCURY

Internal Controls & Payment Audit Professional

15 – 19 March 2027
Cape Town (South Africa)



Dubai - UAE: +971 4 450 5697
Istanbul - Türkiye: +90 539 599 1206
Amman - Jordan: +962 79 712 3347

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Ref: 16264_1069901 **Date:** 15 – 19 March 2027 **Location:** Cape Town (South Africa) **Fees:** 5300 Euro

Introduction:

The Internal Controls and Payment Audit Professional course provides participants with the expertise needed to assess, implement, and enhance internal control systems and payment audit mechanisms. It focuses on strengthening financial accountability and minimizing risks related to payment processing.

This Internal Controls and Payment Audit Professional training equips professionals with the knowledge to detect and prevent financial irregularities within corporate frameworks. The training covers global best practices in internal controls, payment reconciliation, fraud detection, and control evaluation.

Participants will engage in case studies and real-world scenarios to apply the principles they have learned effectively. This Internal Controls and Payment Audit Professional program is for professionals operating in finance, audit, risk, and compliance functions. Learners will possess robust skills to support and maintain financial integrity within their organizations.

Targeted Groups:

This Internal Controls and Payment Audit Professional training targets professionals seeking specialized knowledge and skills:

- Internal auditors are responsible for financial control assurance.
- Accountants and finance officers work with payment systems.
- Risk management specialists in financial departments.
- Compliance officers oversee transactional integrity.
- External auditors are conducting payment audits.
- Treasury and cash management professionals.
- Controllers manage corporate financial operations.
- ERP and financial system analysts.
- Budget analysts and financial planners.
- Professionals in government audit and inspection bodies.

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Course Objectives:

Participants will achieve the following objectives by completing the Internal Controls and Payment Audit Professional course:

- Identify the core components of internal control systems.
- Analyze and evaluate payment processes for weaknesses.
- Design effective internal control frameworks.
- Apply control testing techniques in audits.
- Monitor compliance with financial control policies.
- Interpret audit results to propose improvements.
- Implement corrective actions for identified deficiencies.
- Document audit findings and control assessments.
- Distinguish between manual and automated control procedures.
- Assess segregation of duties in financial workflows.
- Detect red flags of fraud in payment operations.
- Review vendor and invoice processing for irregularities.
- Recommend improvements to reduce financial risk.
- Build audit trails that support transparency and accountability.
- Execute follow-up audits to validate control effectiveness.
- Enhance financial governance through control alignment.
- Utilize digital tools for audit documentation and reporting.
- Ensure consistency between control design and operational execution.
- Evaluate internal controls using real-case scenarios and benchmarks.

Targeted Competencies:

Participants will gain the following competencies during the Internal Controls and Payment Audit Professional program:

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- Proficiency in internal control system design and evaluation.
- Analytical thinking in identifying control gaps.
- Decision-making in audit planning and execution.
- Accuracy in financial data verification.
- Understanding of risk-based auditing frameworks.
- Fluency in control documentation and reporting.
- Ability to detect fraud in payment processes.
- Confidence in applying control remediation strategies.
- Communication of audit results to stakeholders.
- Mastery of control compliance verification methods.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Foundations of Internal Control Systems:

- Define internal control and its objectives.
- Explore the COSO internal control framework.
- Identify five components of internal control.
- Understand the control environment and organizational culture.
- Assess risk and control activities.
- Explore information and communication in controls.
- Understand monitoring activities for control effectiveness.
- Discuss the role of internal controls in financial reporting.
- Evaluate common challenges in control system design.

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Unit 2: Payment Audit Frameworks and Best Practices:

- Define payment audit and its role in financial assurance.
- Identify types of payments subject to audit.
- Assess payment authorization and processing cycles.
- Understand payment fraud risks and control points.
- Review audit techniques for payment systems.
- Examine high-risk payment areas payroll, vendors, transfers.
- Analyze audit evidence in payment review.
- Use data analytics for payment anomaly detection.
- Document payment audit findings effectively.

Unit 3: Risk Assessment and Control Testing Techniques:

- Conduct risk assessments in financial operations.
- Identify key risks in payment and disbursement functions.
- Understand risk response strategies avoid, reduce, transfer.
- Plan control testing procedures for audits.
- Test controls for design and operational effectiveness.
- Utilize sampling techniques in payment audits.
- Evaluate control deficiencies and severity levels.
- Recommend corrective actions for internal weaknesses.
- Prepare risk-based audit reports.

Unit 4: Enhancing Financial Compliance through Controls:

- Understand compliance requirements in payment processing.
- Align internal controls with regulatory frameworks.
- Analyze case studies on compliance violations.
- Develop policies and procedures for the control of execution.
- Apply segregation of duties in payment functions.
- Evaluate internal controls in ERP systems.
- Review documentation and approval workflows.
- Implement automated controls in financial software.
- Create dashboards for control monitoring.

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Unit 5: Practical Tools and Case-Based Application:

- Apply internal audit tools in real-world scenarios.
- Review and critique sample audit reports.
- Perform walkthroughs of payment workflows.
- Identify fraud risks in vendor and payroll cycles.
- Conduct control gap assessments in case studies.
- Use flowcharts and narratives for control design.
- Role-play audit interviews and fraud investigations.
- Design internal control checklists and scorecards.
- Present audit findings to a simulated board committee.

Final Insights & Key Takeaways:

Internal controls are the backbone of financial transparency and risk management. Payment audit processes serve as safeguards against errors and fraud. This course empowers professionals to apply structured auditing techniques within diverse organizational environments. Participants will confidently lead initiatives to improve financial controls and compliance practices.