MERCURY

Advanced Strategic Internal Auditing Training

20 – 24 June 2027
Dubai (UAE)



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Advanced Strategic Internal Auditing Training

Ref: 16388_1076714 **Date:** 20 – 24 June 2027 **Location:** Dubai (UAE) **Fees:** 4600 Euro

Introduction:

The Advanced Strategic Internal Auditing Training equips senior audit leaders with the strategic knowledge required to transform audit functions into value-driving units. The course emphasizes governance, risk oversight, and embedding audit into strategic decision-making across complex organizations. Participants will deepen skills in advanced risk assessment, data-driven audit methodologies, and control optimization.

The Advanced Strategic Internal Auditing program focuses on leadership, stakeholder engagement, and audit transformation to meet evolving regulatory and business challenges. Practical scenarios and theoretical frameworks combine to sharpen judgment and influence at the board and executive levels. Completion prepares professionals to lead strategic change and elevate the internal audit's role in enterprise resilience.

Targeted Groups:

This Advanced Strategic Internal Auditing training targets professionals seeking specialized knowledge:

- Chief Audit Executives CAE.
- Directors of Internal Audit.
- Heads of Risk and Internal Audit.
- Vice Presidents of Internal Audit and Compliance.
- Senior Audit Managers.
- Global Heads of Internal Audit.
- Chief Risk Officers CRO.
- Internal Controls Directors.
- Audit and Compliance Executives.
- Corporate Governance and Audit Directors.
- Heads of Assurance Services.
- Enterprise Risk and Audit Leaders.
- Strategic Audit Advisors.
- Senior Managers - Audit and Risk Strategy.
- Internal Audit Transformation Leads.

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Course Objectives:

Participants will achieve the following objectives by completing the Advanced Strategic Internal Auditing course:

- Define the strategic mandate of internal audit within the enterprise governance framework.
- Analyze complex risk landscapes to prioritize audit focus.
- Design risk-based audit plans that align with corporate strategy and objectives.
- Implement advanced testing approaches that incorporate data analytics.
- Evaluate control effectiveness and recommend measurable improvements.
- Communicate audit insights clearly to boards and executive leadership.
- Lead audit teams to deliver high-quality assurance and advisory services.
- Integrate audit activities with enterprise risk management and assurance maps to ensure comprehensive oversight and assurance.
- Navigate regulatory changes and embed compliance into audit planning.
- Develop metrics to measure audit performance and value delivered.
- Drive transformation projects to modernize audit processes and tools.
- Apply ethical judgment to preserve independence and professional integrity.
- Build stakeholder relationships that enable proactive risk mitigation and management.
- Influence decision-making through strategic, evidence-based audit recommendations.

Targeted Competencies:

Participants will gain the following competencies during the Advanced Strategic Internal Auditing program:

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- Strategic alignment of internal audit with organizational objectives.
- Advanced enterprise risk identification and prioritization.
- Construction of measurable, risk-based audit programs.
- Mastery of control design assessment and remediation guidance.
- Practical application of audit data analytics and sampling techniques.
- Proficient in reporting to the C-suite and audit committees with impact.
- Leadership in audit team development and resource optimization.
- Change Management Skills for Audit Transformation Initiatives.
- Ability to map assurance coverage and remove duplication.
- Competence in assessing third-party and co-sourced audit quality.
- Skills to quantify audit value and the cost-benefit of recommendations.

Studying Scenarios:

In this Advanced Strategic Internal Auditing training, participants will develop their skills through the analysis of the following scenarios:

- Designing a risk-based annual audit plan for a multinational with fragmented controls.
- Leading an investigation into suspected fraud while preserving audit independence.
- Applying analytics to detect revenue leakage and control failure patterns.
- Assessing the effect of new regulations on core processes and audit scope.
- Orchestrating an internal audit transformation to adopt continuous auditing.
- Evaluating co-sourced providers and governance of shared assurance models.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Strategic Role and Governance of Internal Audit:

- Define the strategic audit mandate and linkage to corporate strategy.
- Describe the auditor's role in governance, ethics, and culture.
- Map audit activities to board priorities and enterprise risk appetite.
- Assess the internal audit charter and reporting lines for effectiveness.
- Examine assurance mapping to identify gaps and overlaps.
- Establish KPIs and performance indicators to measure the impact of strategic audits.
- Create frameworks for periodic review of audit strategy and scope.

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Unit 2: Advanced Risk Assessment & Risk-Based Audit Planning:

- Identify enterprise-level risks and cascading operational exposures.
- Apply advanced risk scoring methods to prioritize audit efforts.
- Develop a dynamic, risk-based audit plan with measurable outcomes.
- Integrate enterprise risk management inputs into the audit planning process.
- Use scenario analysis to stress-test risk assumptions and control resilience.
- Allocate audit resources based on risk intensity and stakeholder needs.
- Build contingency plans for emergent risks and regulatory shocks.

Unit 3: Audit Execution, Methodologies & Data Analytics:

- Design audit programs that combine substantive testing and analytics.
- Implement continuous auditing techniques for high-risk processes to ensure effective control and oversight.
- Use data interrogation to identify anomalies and control weaknesses.
- Select sampling strategies proportionate to risk and materiality.
- Document evidence to support robust, defensible findings.
- Evaluate remediation plans using root cause analysis.
- Integrate technology into audit workpapers and issue tracking.

Unit 4: Internal Control Optimization & Compliance Assurance:

- Assess control design and operational effectiveness across processes.
- Recommend control enhancements aligned to risk tolerance.
- Evaluate control automation and the role of process owners.
- Test governance and compliance frameworks for regulatory adherence.
- Measure control maturity and prioritise remediation activities.
- Develop dashboards to monitor trends in the control environment.
- Align compliance monitoring with strategic audit priorities.

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Unit 5: Leadership, Stakeholder Engagement & Audit Transformation:

- Lead audit teams through strategic transitions and capability building.
- Develop persuasive reporting for audit committees and executives.
- Foster relationships with regulators, external auditors, and management.
- Drive co-sourcing and outsourcing governance with quality metrics.
- Plan and execute audit transformation roadmaps and agile delivery.
- Manage change resistance and embed continuous improvement practices to drive lasting results.
- Create succession, training, and talent strategies for audit teams.
- Promote a culture of ethical conduct, independence, and professional judgment.

Final Insights & Key Takeaways:

Advanced internal audit leadership transforms assurance into a strategic advantage by aligning audit activities with enterprise objectives and measurable outcomes. Graduates will be able to lead modern, analytics-driven audit functions that inform decision-making, enhance controls, and bolster organizational resilience.