MERCURY

Financial Forecasting and Preparation of Budgets and Financial Reports

10 - 14 Aug 2026
Barcelona (Spain)

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Financial Forecasting and Preparation of Budgets and Financial Reports

Ref.: 121276_1025591 **Date:** 10 - 14 Aug 2026 **Location:** Barcelona (Spain) **Fees:** 5600 **Euro**

Introduction

This course equips participants with advanced skills in financial forecasting, budgeting, and report preparation to guide strategic decision-making. It covers techniques for projecting revenues and expenses, preparing realistic budgets, and producing accurate financial reports. Learners will understand how to link forecasts with operational plans and report performance effectively. The course highlights best practices in variance analysis, cash-flow planning, and financial reporting. It also addresses regulatory and internal reporting requirements. By completing this course, professionals will be able to support their organization's financial planning with confidence and clarity.

Targeted Groups

This Financial Forecasting and Preparation of Budgets and Financial Reports course targets professionals seeking specialized knowledge and skills:

- Financial analysts working in corporate planning.
- Budget managers in non-profit or public sector organizations.
- Accountants preparing internal or external financial reports.
- Business owners or entrepreneurs managing growth and cash needs.
- Controllers and CFOs are involved in long-term financial strategy.
- Project managers oversee cost forecasting and resource allocation.

Course Objectives

Participants will achieve the following objectives by Financial Forecasting and Preparation of Budgets and Financial Reports:

- Build accurate financial forecasts using quantitative methods and scenario modeling.
- Design detailed annual and rolling budgets aligned with organizational goals.
- Develop cash-flow projections that support sustainable operations.
- Prepare formal financial reports in accordance with standard frameworks.
- Analyze variances between forecasts, budgets, and actuals.
- Use forecasting and reporting to inform strategic decisions and performance reviews.

Targeted Competencies

Participants will gain the following competencies during the program:

- Strategic thinking in predicting future revenue and expense trends.
- Technical proficiency in budget construction and forecasting tools.
- Analytical insight to interpret financial variances and report findings.
- Communication skills to present budget and report summaries clearly to stakeholders.
- Problem-solving skills to adjust forecasts and budgets when business conditions change.
- Decision-making capacity based on robust financial models and reports.

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Studying Scenarios

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

- A manufacturing company is projecting sales and cost forecasts for the next fiscal year under multiple economic scenarios.
- A non-profit organization building a donor-funded program budget and cash-flow forecast.
- Startup founder estimating revenue growth and cash burn while preparing monthly financial reports.
- A corporate finance team compares budgeted and actual performance, conducts variance analysis, and updates forecasts accordingly.

Course Content

Unit 1: Foundations of Financial Forecasting

- Introduction to forecasting: purpose and benefits.
- Types of forecasts: short-term, medium-term, long-term.
- Quantitative techniques: time-series, regression, trend analysis.
- Qualitative methods: expert judgment, scenario planning.
- Selecting the right forecasting approach for your business.
- Common pitfalls and how to avoid forecast bias.

Unit 2: Building a Robust Budget

- Linking business strategy to budget objectives.
- Creating revenue, expense, and capital budgets.
- Zero-based budgeting vs. incremental budgeting.
- Rolling forecasts and flexible budget models.
- Budgeting for cash flow and working capital.
- Integrating risk and contingency planning into the budget.

Unit 3: Cash-Flow Forecasting and Management

- Importance of cash-flow forecasting in financial planning.
- Direct vs. indirect cash-flow methods.
- Forecasting cash receipts and payments.
- Projecting working-capital needs.
- Planning for financing or investment needs.
- Stress testing cash positions under different scenarios.

Unit 4: Preparation of Financial Reports

- Key financial statements: income statement, balance sheet, and cash flow.
- Preparing internal management reports.
- External financial reporting and compliance requirements.
- Use of accounting standards e.g., IFRS, GAAP.
- Dashboard design and KPI metrics for reporting.
- Narrative and commentary to support the numbers.

Unit 5: Variance Analysis and Decision Support

- Calculating variances between forecast, budget, and actuals.
- Root cause analysis of financial variances.
- Adjusting forecasts and budgets based on performance.
- Scenario re-forecasting for strategic decisions.
- Reporting recommendations and management action plans.
- Continuous improvement of forecasting and budgeting processes.

Final Insights & Key Takeaways

Participants will leave with a practical toolkit for budgeting and forecasting that drives better financial decisions. They will gain the confidence to produce reliable financial reports that inform leadership and improve performance.

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Registration form on the :
Financial Forecasting and Preparation of Budgets and Financial Reports

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