MERCURY

Strategic Financial Reporting & IFRS for Finance Leaders

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Introduction

The Strategic Financial Reporting & IFRS for Finance Leaders course develops advanced knowledge of financial reporting principles and their strategic relevance to senior finance professionals. It examines the IFRS conceptual framework, financial statement preparation, recognition and measurement principles, presentation requirements, and disclosure practices. Participants explore major IFRS requirements affecting revenue, leases, financial instruments, consolidation, provisions, impairment, and accounting estimates. The program strengthens financial statement analysis by connecting reported results with profitability, liquidity, solvency, risk, and strategic performance. It covers reporting governance, internal controls, professional judgment, materiality, and communicating significant accounting conclusions. It enables finance leaders to evaluate reporting quality, interpret complex IFRS issues, and support informed executive decisions through reliable financial information.

Targeted Groups

This Strategic Financial Reporting & IFRS for Finance Leaders training targets professionals seeking knowledge and skills:

- Finance directors and CFOs overseeing reporting strategy and IFRS compliance.
- Financial controllers managing reporting quality and close processes.
- Senior accountants preparing IFRS financial statements and disclosures.
- FP&A leaders interpreting reported results for strategic decisions.
- Audit and assurance professionals reviewing financial reporting judgments.
- Finance managers leading teams through reporting changes and complex transactions.
- Accounting professionals strengthening IFRS knowledge and financial statement analysis.

Course Objectives

Participants will achieve the following objectives by completing the Strategic Financial Reporting & IFRS for Finance Leaders course:

- Interpret the IFRS conceptual framework and its reporting implications.
- Evaluate recognition and measurement choices under major IFRS requirements.
- Analyze financial statements for performance, position, liquidity, and risk.
- Assess complex accounting judgments affecting strategic financial reporting.
- Apply principles for revenue, leases, financial instruments, and consolidation.
- Evaluate presentation and disclosure requirements for decision-useful information.
- Analyze accounting estimates, materiality, and changes in accounting policies.
- Assess financial reporting risks and strengthen internal reporting controls.
- Interpret cash flow information and key financial reporting ratios.
- Evaluate management reporting against IFRS-based financial statements.
- Develop stronger review processes for reporting accuracy and consistency.
- Communicate significant IFRS judgments clearly to executives and stakeholders.
- Assess the effects of new IFRS requirements on reporting processes.
- Support strategic decisions through reliable, comparable financial information.

Targeted Competencies

Participants will gain the following competencies during the Strategic Financial Reporting & IFRS for Finance Leaders program:

- Interpret IFRS principles and conceptual reporting requirements.
- Evaluate recognition and measurement judgments.
- Analyze financial statements and reporting trends.
- Assess material accounting estimates and assumptions.
- Review disclosure quality and reporting transparency.
- Evaluate revenue and lease accounting implications.
- Analyze financial instruments and impairment considerations.
- Assess consolidation and group reporting requirements.
- Interpret cash flow statements and financial ratios.
- Identify financial reporting risks and control weaknesses.
- Communicate significant accounting judgments to senior leaders.
- Connect IFRS reporting with strategic financial decisions.

Real-world Case Studies

In this Strategic Financial Reporting & IFRS for Finance Leaders training, participants develop skills through the following cases:

- Analyze a multinational group’s IFRS financial statements and identify reporting judgments affecting comparability.
- Review a revenue contract and determine the appropriate IFRS 15 treatment, disclosures, and performance implications.
- Evaluate lease accounting decisions under IFRS 16 and assess effects on assets, liabilities, profit, and ratios.
- Examine financial instrument classifications and impairment assumptions under IFRS 9.
- Assess management disclosures and recommend clearer information for investors and executive decision-making.

Course Content

Unit 1: Financial Reporting Foundations and Leadership Perspective

- Examine the purpose of financial reporting for key stakeholders.
- Interpret the IFRS Conceptual Framework and its reporting principles.
- Distinguish relevance, faithful representation, comparability, and understandability.
- Analyze financial statement elements and their economic meaning.
- Evaluate recognition and measurement concepts for reliable information.
- Assess materiality and professional judgment in reporting decisions.
- Evaluate how reporting choices affect stakeholder confidence and accountability.

Unit 2: Strategic Analysis of Financial Statements

- Interpret the statement of financial position and financial structure.
- Analyze profit or loss, revenue, expenses, margins, and performance.
- Examine cash flows, liquidity, and cash generation quality.
- Apply ratios to assess profitability, liquidity, solvency, and efficiency.
- Compare periods to identify trends, variances, and reporting concerns.

- Connect financial analysis with strategic and executive decisions.
- Interpret earnings quality and identify sustainable performance.

Unit 3: Core IFRS Requirements for Complex Transactions

- Evaluate IFRS 15 revenue recognition and performance obligations.
- Assess IFRS 16 leases and their financial statement impacts.
- Analyze IFRS 9 classification, measurement, and expected credit losses.
- Review provisions and contingencies, including disclosure requirements.
- Assess accounting for assets, depreciation, and impairment.
- Examine foreign currency transactions and translation effects.
- Evaluate presentation and disclosure impacts of complex transactions.

Unit 4: Group Reporting, Disclosure, and Reporting Quality

- Interpret business combinations and acquisition accounting principles.
- Assess control and consolidation within group financial statements.
- Evaluate related-party transactions and disclosure requirements.
- Analyze accounting policies, estimates, and changes in reporting.
- Assess subsequent events and going concern considerations.
- Evaluate disclosure quality and material information.
- Review reporting consistency across subsidiaries and accounting policies.

Unit 5: IFRS Governance, Risk, and Executive Decision-Making

- Identify reporting risks from transactions, estimates, and controls.
- Evaluate controls supporting accurate and timely financial statements.
- Review significant accounting judgments and reporting assumptions.
- Assess the impact of IFRS updates on reporting processes.
- Use financial analysis to support strategic and resource decisions.
- Communicate reporting conclusions to boards, executives, and auditors.
- Integrate IFRS compliance, risk oversight, and strategic accountability.

Final Insights & Key Takeaways

The course strengthens the ability to interpret complex financial reporting requirements and evaluate their strategic implications. Participants gain a leadership-oriented perspective for improving reporting quality, managing IFRS risks, and using reliable financial information to support executive decisions.