Strategic Internal Auditing and Control Implementation Training Course



30 Nov - 04 Dec 2026
LONDON
5900 € (Per Person)
Ref: #BI2442_176921

Course Introduction / Overview:

This course provides a comprehensive framework for transforming the internal audit function from a traditional compliance role into a strategic business partner. In today's dynamic risk environment, organizations require an agile and forward-thinking internal audit team that can provide assurance and insightful advice on critical business processes and controls. This program, offered by BIG BEN Training Center, delves deep into the methodologies for designing, implementing, and evaluating robust internal control systems aligned with organizational objectives. We will explore the core principles outlined in globally recognized frameworks such as the COSO Internal Control – Integrated Framework. Participants will learn to conduct risk-based audits that focus on what truly matters, moving beyond simple tick-box exercises. The curriculum is influenced by the foundational work of thought leaders like Lawrence B. Sawyer, who championed the idea of internal auditing as a value-adding management tool, a concept detailed in his seminal work, "Sawyer's Internal Auditing". This training equips professionals with the practical skills to not only identify control weaknesses but also to recommend and guide the implementation of effective, efficient, and sustainable control solutions that support strategic goals and enhance corporate governance.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Internal Auditors at all levels.
- Audit Managers and Heads of Internal Audit.
- Risk Management Professionals.
- Compliance Officers and Managers.
- Finance Managers and Controllers.
- Accountants and Financial Professionals.
- Members of Audit Committees and Boards of Directors.
- Operations Managers seeking to understand control environments.
- IT professionals involved in general and application controls.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Banking and Financial Services.
- Insurance and Investment Management.
- Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals.
- Manufacturing and Engineering.
- Retail and Consumer Goods.
- Technology and Telecommunications.
- Energy, Oil, and Gas.
- Governmental agencies and public sector organizations.
- Non-profit and educational institutions.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Internal Audit Department.
- Finance and Accounting Department.
- Risk Management Department.
- Compliance and Legal Department.
- Operations Department.
- Information Technology (IT) Department.
- Procurement and Supply Chain Department.
- Human Resources Department.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Develop a strategic, risk-based internal audit plan aligned with organizational goals.
- Master the principles of the COSO framework for designing and implementing effective internal controls.
- Evaluate the design and operational effectiveness of existing control systems.
- Conduct comprehensive audit fieldwork using advanced testing and evidence-gathering techniques.
- Identify control gaps and formulate practical, value-added recommendations for improvement.
- Communicate audit findings persuasively to management and the audit committee.
- Implement and manage a robust audit follow-up process to ensure remediation of identified issues.
- Utilize data analytics to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of audit procedures.
- Navigate the complexities of IT General Controls (ITGCs) and their impact on the control environment.
- Lead and contribute to Control Self-Assessment (CSA) programs.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, practical, and engaging, ensuring that participants can immediately apply the learned concepts in their professional roles. We move beyond traditional lectures to create a dynamic learning environment that fosters deep understanding and skill development. The course heavily relies on real-world case studies and business scenarios, allowing participants to analyze complex control environments and develop strategic audit approaches. Group discussions and collaborative workshops encourage the sharing of diverse experiences and perspectives, enriching the learning process for all attendees. Practical exercises, such as developing a risk and control matrix or drafting an audit report, provide hands-on experience. Role-playing sessions, simulating audit interviews and presentations to an audit committee, will be used to build communication and stakeholder management skills. Our expert instructors facilitate the sessions, providing continuous feedback and guiding participants through complex topics. This blended approach ensures a comprehensive mastery of both the theoretical foundations and the practical application of strategic internal auditing and control implementation.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One The Strategic Role of Modern Internal Auditing

- The evolution of internal auditing from compliance to strategic advisor.
- Understanding corporate governance, risk management, and internal control (GRC).
- Key frameworks and standards (IIA's IPPF, COSO Internal Control Framework).
- The role of the internal audit charter and audit committee.
- Establishing the internal audit function's independence and objectivity.
- Ethical considerations and professional conduct for internal auditors.
- Aligning the internal audit plan with the organization's strategic objectives.

Unit Two Planning and Scoping the Risk-Based Audit

- Conducting a comprehensive enterprise-wide risk assessment.
- Developing the annual risk-based internal audit plan.
- Prioritizing audit engagements based on risk and strategic importance.
- Defining the objectives and scope for individual audit projects.
- Preparing a detailed audit engagement work program.
- Budgeting and resource allocation for audit engagements.
- Effective communication and planning with key stakeholders.

Unit Three Audit Execution and Evidence Gathering

- Techniques for effective audit fieldwork and process walkthroughs.
- Designing and performing tests of controls (design and operating effectiveness).
- Substantive testing procedures and analytical reviews.
- Gathering sufficient, reliable, relevant, and useful audit evidence.
- Introduction to data analytics and computer-assisted audit techniques (CAATs).
- Conducting effective audit interviews and inquiries.
- Documenting audit work in clear and concise working papers.

Unit Four Internal Control Design and Implementation

- Deep dive into the five components of the COSO framework.
- Designing effective entity-level and process-level controls.
- Implementing controls for key business cycles (e.g., procure-to-pay, order-to-cash).
- Understanding and auditing IT General Controls (ITGCs).
- Introduction to Control Self-Assessment (CSA) methodologies.
- Evaluating and testing the effectiveness of newly implemented controls.
- Change management principles for successful control implementation.

Unit Five Reporting, Follow-Up, and Future Trends

- Structuring and writing impactful audit reports.
- Developing clear, concise, and actionable audit findings and recommendations.
- Communicating audit results to management and the audit committee.
- Techniques for effective negotiation and influencing stakeholders.
- Establishing a robust process for audit issue tracking and follow-up.
- Measuring the performance and value of the internal audit function.
- Emerging trends in internal auditing (ESG, cybersecurity, agile auditing).

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

In an era of rapid technological change and emerging ESG risks, how can internal audit move beyond its traditional assurance role to become a truly strategic partner to the business?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This course distinguishes itself by focusing intensely on the strategic implementation of internal controls, rather than merely the theoretical aspects of auditing. While many programs cover audit theory, this training provides a practical roadmap for translating strategic objectives into a tangible and effective control environment. We bridge the critical gap between identifying a risk and implementing a sustainable control solution that works in practice. The curriculum is uniquely structured to build skills progressively, starting from high-level strategic planning and risk assessment, moving through to the granular details of control design, testing, and implementation. A significant emphasis is placed on the "how-to" – how to design a control that is not overly burdensome, how to gain buy-in from process owners, and how to verify that a new control is operating as intended. Furthermore, the course integrates forward-looking topics like data analytics, cybersecurity risks, and ESG considerations directly into the audit and control framework, preparing participants for the future challenges of the profession. The interactive case studies are based on complex, real-world scenarios, compelling participants to think critically and develop pragmatic solutions, ensuring they leave with actionable skills, not just academic knowledge.