Government Audit and Financial Fraud Detection Training Course



21 - 25 Dec 2026

Lisbon

4500 € (Per Person)

Ref: #GOV7829_103839

Course Introduction / Overview:

This comprehensive training course is designed to equip professionals with the essential skills and advanced techniques required for effective government auditing and financial fraud detection. In an environment where public trust and fiscal accountability are paramount, the ability to identify, investigate, and prevent fraudulent activities is a critical competency. This program delves into the intricate landscape of public sector finance, exploring the unique challenges and vulnerabilities inherent in government operations. Drawing on principles articulated by leading experts like Dr. Steve Albrecht in his seminal work "Fraud Examination," the course provides a robust framework for understanding the psychology of fraudsters and the mechanics of their schemes. Participants will move beyond theoretical concepts to gain practical, hands-on experience in applying modern forensic tools and data analytics. BIG BEN Training Center has developed this curriculum to empower auditors and financial professionals to safeguard public assets, enhance transparency, and uphold the highest standards of integrity within government entities. This course is an indispensable resource for building a proactive defense against financial crime in the public sector.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Internal and External Auditors working with government agencies.
- Government Accountants and Financial Officers.
- Compliance and Ethics Professionals.
- Fraud Examiners and Financial Investigators.
- Public Sector Managers and Department Heads.
- Risk Management Specialists.
- Legislative Auditors and Staff.
- Law Enforcement Officials specializing in financial crimes.
- Procurement and Contract Managers.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Federal, State, and Local Government Ministries and Agencies.
- State-Owned Enterprises and Public Corporations.
- Public Utilities and Transportation Authorities.
- Healthcare and Educational Institutions funded by the government.
- Regulatory Bodies and Oversight Committees.
- Non-Profit and Non-Governmental Organizations receiving public funds.
- International Development and Aid Organizations.
- Defense and National Security Agencies.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Internal Audit Department.
- Finance and Accounting Department.
- Compliance and Ethics Office.
- Risk Management Department.
- Legal and Investigation Units.
- Procurement and Supply Chain Management.
- Human Resources Department.
- Information Technology and Security Department.

Course Offerings:

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

- Master the principles of Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS).
- Conduct comprehensive fraud risk assessments tailored to public sector environments.
- Identify red flags and indicators of common government fraud schemes.
- Apply advanced data analytics and forensic techniques to detect anomalies.
- Develop and execute a structured financial fraud investigation plan.
- Master effective investigative interviewing and evidence-gathering techniques.
- Evaluate the design and effectiveness of internal controls to prevent fraud.
- Write clear, concise, and impactful audit and investigation reports.
- Understand the legal framework surrounding government fraud and auditor responsibilities.
- Uphold the highest ethical standards in conducting audits and investigations.

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 their learning in a professional context. We move beyond traditional lectures to create a dynamic learning environment that fosters critical thinking and skill development. The course heavily utilizes real-world case studies drawn from actual government fraud investigations, allowing participants to analyze complex scenarios and develop effective audit strategies. Interactive group discussions and workshops encourage peer-to-peer learning and the sharing of diverse experiences. A significant portion of the training is dedicated to hands-on exercises, including data analysis simulations using sample datasets and role-playing sessions for practicing investigative interviewing techniques. Our expert instructors provide continuous feedback and facilitate a collaborative atmosphere where participants can confidently ask questions and explore challenging concepts. This blended approach ensures a deep understanding of both the theoretical foundations and the practical application of government auditing and fraud detection.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Public Sector Auditing and Fraud

- The Government Auditing Landscape and GAGAS.
- Understanding the Fraud Triangle in a Public Sector Context.
- Common Fraud Schemes in Government: Procurement, Payroll, and Benefits.
- The Legal and Regulatory Framework for Combating Public Sector Fraud.
- Roles and Responsibilities of Government Auditors.
- Introduction to the Professional Standards and Ethics for Auditors.
- The Psychology of the White-Collar Criminal in Government.

Unit Two: Proactive Fraud Prevention and Internal Controls

- Designing and Implementing an Anti-Fraud Program.
- Conducting a Government-Specific Fraud Risk Assessment.
- Evaluating Internal Control Weaknesses and Vulnerabilities.
- Control Activities for High-Risk Areas like Grants and Contracts.
- The Role of Whistleblower Hotlines and Protection Policies.
- Promoting an Ethical Culture within Public Organizations.
- Continuous Monitoring and Auditing for Fraud Prevention.

Unit Three: Investigative Techniques and Evidence Management

- Planning and Commencing a Formal Fraud Investigation.
- Techniques for Gathering and Documenting Evidence.
- Mastering the Art of Investigative Interviewing.
- Conducting Covert Audits and Surveillance.
- Introduction to Digital Forensics and E-Discovery.
- Chain of Custody and Evidence Handling Procedures.
- Collaborating with Law Enforcement and Legal Counsel.

Unit Four: Data Analytics for Fraud Detection

- Fundamentals of Data Analytics in Auditing.
- Using Benford's Law to Identify Irregularities in Financial Data.
- Techniques for Data Mining and Anomaly Detection.
- Analyzing Electronic Records for Red Flags of Fraud.
- Visualizing Data to Communicate Audit Findings Effectively.
- Practical Application of Software Tools in Forensic Audits.
- Developing a Continuous Data Analytics Program.

Unit Five: Reporting, Remediation, and Courtroom Testimony

- Writing Effective Audit and Investigation Reports.
- Communicating Findings to Management and Oversight Bodies.
- Developing Recommendations for Control Improvements and Remediation.
- Preparing for and Providing Expert Witness Testimony.
- Understanding Civil and Criminal Proceedings in Fraud Cases.
- Post-Investigation Actions and Recovery of Assets.
- Case Study Synthesis: From Detection to Resolution.

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 increasingly sophisticated digital fraud, how can traditional government audit principles adapt to maintain public trust and accountability?

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

This course distinguishes itself by moving beyond theoretical frameworks to provide a deeply practical and immersive learning experience tailored specifically to the public sector. While other programs may offer a general overview of fraud, our curriculum is built around real-world case studies and scenarios encountered within government agencies, from procurement fraud to misuse of public funds. We place a significant emphasis on the integration of modern data analytics, equipping participants not just with the knowledge of what tools exist, but with hands-on practice in applying them to detect anomalies in complex datasets. The course uniquely blends the foundational principles of government auditing standards with the advanced, nuanced skills of a forensic investigator. This includes dedicated modules on investigative interviewing and evidence management, skills that are critical for ensuring findings are robust and actionable. The focus is on building tangible competencies, enabling participants to return to their organizations ready to implement proactive fraud detection strategies and conduct more effective, evidence-based audits that safeguard public resources and uphold institutional integrity.