Strategic IT Auditing and Internal Control Systems Training Course



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Lisbon

4500 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

In today's digitally-driven economy, the integrity and security of information systems are paramount to organizational success and compliance. This intensive training course provides a comprehensive exploration of information systems auditing and internal control methodologies from A to Z. It is designed to equip professionals with the critical skills needed to assess risks, evaluate controls, and ensure the reliability of IT infrastructures. The curriculum delves into established frameworks and best practices, drawing on foundational principles articulated by leading academics like Ron Weber in his seminal work, "Information Systems Control and Audit". Participants will move beyond theoretical knowledge to gain practical, actionable insights into planning, executing, and reporting on IT audits. BIG BEN Training Center has developed this program to address the growing demand for skilled auditors who can navigate complex technological environments, from legacy systems to cloud computing and cybersecurity threats. This course is the definitive guide for professionals seeking to master the art and science of providing assurance over an organization's most critical digital assets.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Internal Auditors.
- IT Auditors.
- Information Security Professionals.
- Compliance Officers.
- Risk Management Specialists.
- IT Managers and Team Leaders.
- External Auditors and Consultants.
- Finance Professionals involved in system controls.
- Quality Assurance Professionals.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Banking and Financial Services.
- Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals.
- Technology and Telecommunications.
- Governmental Agencies and Public Sector Entities.
- Retail and E-commerce.
- Manufacturing and Supply Chain.
- Energy and Utilities.
- Consulting and Professional Services.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Internal Audit Department.
- Information Technology (IT) Department.
- Risk Management Department.
- Compliance and Legal Department.
- Information Security Department.
- Finance and Accounting Department.
- Operations Department.

Course Offerings:

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

- Develop a comprehensive, risk-based IT audit plan.
- Evaluate the design and effectiveness of IT general controls (ITGC).
- Apply industry-standard frameworks such as COBIT and NIST.
- Assess controls within business applications and critical systems.
- Identify and evaluate cybersecurity risks and vulnerabilities.
- Audit business continuity and disaster recovery plans effectively.
- Utilize data analytics techniques for enhanced audit testing.
- Collect sufficient and appropriate audit evidence in a digital environment.
- Write clear, concise, and impactful audit reports.
- Communicate audit findings and recommendations to senior management.

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 foster a dynamic learning environment built on a blend of expert-led instruction, real-world case study analysis, and collaborative group exercises. Participants will engage in simulated audit scenarios, allowing them to practice planning, evidence collection, and control testing in a controlled setting. Interactive workshops and peer-to-peer discussions will encourage the sharing of experiences and diverse perspectives on complex auditing challenges. The course incorporates practical demonstrations of audit techniques and facilitates hands-on activities to reinforce key concepts. Continuous feedback from the instructor and active participation are central to our approach, guaranteeing a deep and lasting understanding of information systems auditing and internal control principles. This immersive experience ensures that every participant leaves with not just knowledge, but also the confidence to implement it effectively.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Information Systems Auditing and Governance

- Introduction to IS Auditing and Assurance.
- ISACA Auditing Standards, Guidelines, and Code of Ethics.
- Understanding IT Governance and Management Frameworks.
- Deep Dive into the COBIT Framework for Governance and Control.
- The Role of the IS Auditor in the Organization.
- Legal, Regulatory, and Compliance Requirements.
- Risk Management Fundamentals in an IT Context.

Unit Two: The IT Audit Process and Planning

- Developing a Risk-Based IT Audit Strategy.
- The Phases of an IS Audit: Planning, Fieldwork, Reporting.
- Scoping and Planning the Audit Engagement.
- Techniques for Gathering and Evaluating Audit Evidence.
- Understanding and Applying Audit Sampling Methods.
- Documenting the Audit Process and Workpapers.
- Communicating with Stakeholders Throughout the Audit.

Unit Three: Auditing IT General Controls (ITGC)

- Auditing IT Infrastructure and Network Security.
- Reviewing Logical Access Controls and Identity Management.
- Evaluating Change Management and Configuration Control Processes.
- Assessing Physical and Environmental Security Controls.
- Auditing Data Center and IT Operations.
- Backup, Recovery, and Media Management Controls.
- Problem and Incident Management Procedures.

Unit Four: Auditing Business Applications and System Infrastructure

- Auditing Application-Level Controls.
- Ensuring Data Integrity and Validation Controls.
- Auditing Systems Development and Acquisition Processes.
- Reviewing Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Systems.
- Auditing Business Continuity Planning (BCP).
- Testing Disaster Recovery Plans (DRP).
- Controls in End-User Computing Environments.

Unit Five: Advanced Audit Topics and Reporting

- Introduction to Cybersecurity Auditing.
- Auditing Cloud Computing Environments and Virtualization.
- Using Data Analytics and Continuous Auditing Techniques.
- Investigating IT Fraud and Forensic Auditing.
- Formulating Effective Audit Findings and Recommendations.
- Writing a Compelling and Actionable Audit Report.
- Presenting Audit Results to Management and the Audit Committee.

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:

As automation and AI become more integrated into business processes, how must the role and methodology of the information systems auditor evolve to provide effective assurance?

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

This training course distinguishes itself through a steadfast commitment to practical application and strategic thinking over mere theoretical recitation. While other programs may focus narrowly on a single framework or certification exam, this course provides a holistic and integrated perspective, teaching participants how to blend standards like COBIT, NIST, and ITIL to create a robust, tailored audit approach. Our curriculum is built upon a foundation of real-world case studies drawn from diverse industries, forcing participants to grapple with the same complex, ambiguous scenarios they will face in their careers. The emphasis is not on memorizing controls but on developing the critical judgment needed to assess risk in dynamic technological environments. Furthermore, the course is forward-looking, dedicating significant time to emerging risk areas such as cloud security, data analytics in auditing, and the challenges posed by artificial intelligence. Participants will learn not just how to audit the systems of today, but also how to develop the mindset and skills required to provide assurance over the technologies of tomorrow.