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COURSE BROCHURE

Advanced Internal Audit Excellence and Best Practices Training Course

7 – 18 December 2026
Milan

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Ref: 316_10690 **Date:** 7 – 18 December 2026 **Location:** Milan **Fees:** 11100 GBP

Internal Audit Excellence and Best Practices is an advanced 2-week training course for chief audit executives, internal audit managers and senior internal auditors, built around one work product: an Internal Audit Maturity Roadmap for their own function. Boards and audit committees now expect assurance that is risk-based, evidence-driven and forward-looking rather than a cycle of compliance checklists. Jupiter Prime Training designed this course for audit leaders ready to raise that standard.

Why Internal Audit Excellence and Best Practices Matter Now

Three forces are reshaping the audit function. Audit committees want insight on emerging risks, not only findings on past transactions. Data volumes now allow full-population testing, which changes how evidence is gathered and judged. And the Global Internal Audit Standards, issued by The Institute of Internal Auditors IIA, raise expectations on governing, managing and performing audit services, including a Quality Assurance and Improvement Program QAIP. A function that keeps pace earns a seat in strategic discussions; one that lags is reduced to a cost centre. The course rests on the IIA Three Lines Model and the COSO Internal Control Integrated Framework.

Who Gains Most from Internal Audit Excellence and Best Practices

- Heads of audit functions accountable for the audit charter, audit plan and reporting to the audit committee
- Audit managers who supervise engagements, review working papers and sign off findings
- Senior auditors who lead fieldwork on high-risk processes and coach junior staff
- Quality leads responsible for internal assessments and conformance with professional standards
- Audit analytics specialists who build continuous monitoring scripts and dashboards

A leadership group from one audit function gains most when several members attend together, because the maturity roadmap they draft needs shared ownership across planning, fieldwork and quality.

Internal Audit Excellence and Best Practices Capabilities

Participants leave able to judge where their function stands against professional expectations and to raise its quality engagement by engagement.

- Assess the maturity of an audit function against the Global Internal Audit Standards — the audit committee and the chief audit executive
- Design a risk-based audit plan from a refreshed audit universe — senior management priorities
- Apply root cause analysis to turn observations into durable findings — process owners
- Build an assurance map that removes overlap across the three lines — risk and compliance leaders
- Test full populations with audit analytics instead of small samples — engagement scoping
- Communicate insight-led reports that drive agreed actions — board members and executives

Key Internal Audit Excellence and Best Practices Terms

- Audit universe — the full list of auditable entities, processes and risks from which the periodic audit plan is selected.
- Quality Assurance and Improvement Program QAIP — the ongoing and periodic assessments that show an audit function conforms with professional standards and keeps improving.
- Assurance map — a matrix showing which line, function or provider gives assurance over each key risk, and where gaps or duplication sit.
- Root cause analysis — a structured search for the underlying reason a control failed, so recommendations fix causes rather than symptoms.
- Continuous auditing — automated, repeated testing of transactions and controls that flags exceptions close to when they occur.
- Audit charter — the formal document setting the purpose, authority, independence and reporting lines of the internal audit function.

Internal Audit Excellence and Best Practices Day by Day

Day 1: The Expectations Shaping Modern Assurance

- Global Internal Audit Standards Domains — Where the Function Must Change First
- IIA Three Lines Model Roles — Boundaries Between Assurance and Advice
- Audit Committee Expectation Survey — Priorities the Board Actually Holds
- Stakeholder Value Map — Which Executives Rely on Audit Insight
- Audit Charter Health Check — Mandate, Independence and Reporting Lines

Day 2: Measuring Audit Function Maturity

- Capability Maturity Scale — Current Level of Each Audit Practice
- Conformance Readiness Assessment — Gaps Against Each Standard Requirement
- Benchmark Indicators for Audit Functions — Peer Comparison Without Distortion
- Resource and Skills Inventory — Competence Coverage of the Audit Universe
- Maturity Gap Heat Map — Sequencing Improvements by Impact

Day 3: Refreshing the Audit Universe and Risk Assessment

- Audit Universe Rebuild — Entities, Processes and Emerging Risk Areas
- Risk Scoring Matrix for Auditable Units — Coverage Priorities
- Strategic Objective Linkage — Audits That Follow Organisational Goals
- Rolling Audit Plan Design — Flexibility Versus Committee Commitments
- Audit Plan Capacity Model — Days, Skills and Co-Sourcing Choices

Day 4: Assurance Mapping Across the Three Lines

- Assurance Map Construction — Overlaps and Blind Spots by Key Risk
- Reliance on Second-Line Work — Conditions for Using Others' Testing
- Combined Assurance Calendar — Reducing Audit Fatigue in Business Units
- COSO Internal Control Integrated Framework Components — Control Coverage Testing
- Assurance Gap Reporting — Escalating Uncovered Risks to the Committee

Day 5: Engagement Methodology Refresh

- Engagement Planning Memorandum — Scope, Objectives and Criteria
- Risk and Control Matrix — Selecting Key Controls to Test
- Agile Audit Sprints — Shorter Cycles for Fast-Moving Risks
- Working Paper Standards — Evidence Sufficiency and Reviewer Sign-Off
- Engagement Supervision Checkpoints — Quality Built Into Fieldwork

Day 6: Audit Analytics and Continuous Monitoring

- Full-Population Testing — Replacing Statistical Samples Where Data Allows
- Exception Rules for Payments and Payroll — Red Flags Worth Investigating
- Continuous Auditing Scripts — Frequency and Ownership of Alerts
- Data Access Agreements With IT — Integrity and Confidentiality of Extracts
- Analytics Results Validation — False Positives and Management Responses

Day 7: Root Cause Analysis and Findings That Last

- Five Whys and Fishbone Diagrams — Underlying Control Failure Causes
- Finding Attribute Model — Condition, Criteria, Cause and Effect
- Finding Severity Rating Scale — Consistent Grading Across Engagements
- Management Action Plan Negotiation — Owners, Deadlines and Evidence
- Follow-Up Tracking System — Closing Agreed Actions on Time

Day 8: Reporting Insight to the Board

- Insight-Led Audit Report Structure — Executive Summary Readers Act On
- Thematic Reporting Across Engagements — Systemic Issues and Trends
- Audit Committee Dashboard — Plan Progress, Ratings and Overdue Actions
- Annual Opinion on Governance, Risk and Control — Basis and Limitations
- Difficult Message Delivery — Preserving Independence Under Pressure

Day 9: Quality Assurance and the High-Performing Audit Team

- Quality Assurance and Improvement Program — Internal and External Assessment Cycles
- Post-Engagement Quality Review Checklist — Lessons Fed Into Methodology
- Audit Competency Framework — Hiring, Rotation and Development Choices
- Key Performance Indicators for Audit — Measures the Committee Trusts
- Audit Team Coaching Routines — Building Judgement in Senior Auditors

Day 10: Practising the Internal Audit Maturity Roadmap

- Maturity Gap Heat Map Review — Confirming Priority Improvement Areas
- Assurance Map and Audit Plan Alignment — Coverage Decisions Tested
- Analytics and Root Cause Upgrades — Methodology Changes Sequenced
- Quality Indicator Targets — Evidence of Progress for the Committee
- Internal Audit Maturity Roadmap — Phased Actions, Owners and Milestones

Applying Internal Audit Excellence and Best Practices After the Course

- Run a conformance readiness assessment with the audit leadership group and present the maturity gap heat map to the audit committee chair.
- Pilot full-population analytics and root cause analysis on one upcoming engagement, then compare findings and action closure with a previous cycle.

Internal Audit Excellence and Best Practices Questions FAQ

What is internal audit excellence and best practices, and why does it matter now?

It is the discipline of running an audit function that conforms with professional standards and gives risk-based insight. It matters now because the Global Internal Audit Standards and audit committees expect forward-looking assurance, data-driven testing and visible quality improvement.

Which roles gain most from internal audit excellence and best practices training?

Chief audit executives, audit managers, senior auditors and quality leads gain most. They own the audit plan, supervise engagements and report to the audit committee, so maturity improvements depend on their decisions.

How does internal audit excellence and best practices training differ from a fundamentals of internal auditing course?

A fundamentals course teaches how to perform an engagement. This advanced course looks at the whole function: maturity measurement, assurance mapping, quality assurance, analytics strategy and board reporting, aimed at people who lead auditors rather than those new to the role.

What do you bring back from internal audit excellence and best practices training?

You bring back a phased Internal Audit Maturity Roadmap with owners and milestones, plus a refreshed audit universe approach, an assurance map template and a findings model your team can apply on the next engagement.

Internal Audit Excellence and Best Practices: The Way Forward

The Internal Audit Maturity Roadmap gives the chief audit executive a phased path from current practice to the expected standard. Its first use is deciding which gaps to close before the next annual plan. Audit managers and the audit committee chair use it to track progress. After the first external quality assessment, revisit the roadmap to reset priorities and capacity assumptions.