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COURSE BROCHURE

Advanced Strategic Internal Auditing Training Course

24 January – 4 February 2027
Abu Dhabi

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Registered in the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia

Advanced Strategic Internal Auditing Training Course

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Strategic Internal Auditing is an advanced 2-week training course for chief audit executives, audit managers and senior auditors who want assurance to follow the organisation's strategy, built around one work product: a Strategy-Linked Audit Agenda that ties every planned engagement to a strategic objective and its threatening risks. Boards now ask whether strategy is being executed, not only whether controls operate. Jupiter Prime Training designed this course for auditors ready to answer that question.

Why Strategic Internal Auditing Matters Now

Strategies change faster than annual audit cycles: digital transformation, energy transition, acquisitions and new business models reshape risk profiles within months. Boards and executives therefore expect internal audit to comment on execution progress, risk appetite breaches, culture and decision quality, not just transactional compliance. The Global Internal Audit Standards, issued by The Institute of Internal Auditors IIA, reinforce this by asking the chief audit executive to understand organisational strategy and align the audit plan with it. Functions that make this shift become trusted advisers; those that do not are bypassed when big decisions are made. The IIA Three Lines Model frames how audit stays independent while engaging with strategy.

Who Gains Most from Strategic Internal Auditing

- Chief audit executives who must explain to the board how audit coverage follows strategic priorities
- Audit managers who scope engagements on transformation initiatives and major investments
- Senior auditors assigned to governance, culture and decision-making reviews
- Strategy and enterprise risk partners who share horizon-scanning work with audit
- Audit committee advisers who shape the questions put to management

A chief audit executive attending with two engagement leads gains most, because recasting the audit plan around strategy requires agreement on which objectives deserve deep assurance.

Strategic Internal Auditing Capabilities

These outcomes move audit attention from past transactions to the choices that determine the organisation's future.

- Align audit coverage with strategic objectives using a strategy map — the board and chief executive
- Assess strategic risks and risk appetite statements for realism — executive risk owners
- Design engagements that test strategy execution and benefits realisation — transformation sponsors
- Apply culture and behaviour indicators to governance audits — the audit committee
- Weigh emerging risks through horizon scanning and scenarios — forward-looking assurance choices
- Communicate strategic insight in a concise board narrative — non-executive directors

Key Strategic Internal Auditing Terms

- Strategy map — a visual chain linking long-term goals to objectives, initiatives and measures, used to locate where assurance matters most.
- Risk appetite — the amount and type of risk an organisation is willing to accept in pursuit of its objectives.
- Benefits realisation — tracking whether a strategic initiative delivers the outcomes promised in its business case.
- Horizon scanning — a structured search for weak signals of future risks and opportunities beyond the current planning period.
- Culture audit — an engagement that examines behaviours, incentives and tone to judge whether they support stated values and controls.
- Strategic assurance — audit work that tells leaders whether strategy is executed as intended and its key assumptions still hold.

Strategic Internal Auditing Day by Day

Day 1: Strategy as the Starting Point for Assurance

- Strategy Map Reading for Auditors — Objectives, Initiatives and Measures
- Global Internal Audit Standards on Strategic Alignment — CAE Expectations
- IIA Three Lines Model in Strategic Decisions — Independence While Engaging
- Board and Executive Interviews — Surfacing Strategic Concerns Early
- Strategic Objective Inventory — Priorities Requiring Assurance

Day 2: Strategic Risk and Risk Appetite

- Strategic Risk Identification Workshops With Executives — Threats to Objectives
- Risk Appetite Statement Testing — Measurable Limits Versus Vague Intent
- Key Risk Indicators for Strategic Goals — Early Warning Thresholds
- Interdependent Risk Mapping — Cascading Effects Across Initiatives
- Strategic Risk Ranking — Choosing Where Audit Adds Most Insight

Day 3: Redesigning the Audit Universe Around Strategy

- Objective-Based Audit Universe — Organising Coverage by Strategic Goal
- Mapping Initiatives to Auditable Units — Gaps in Traditional Coverage
- Dynamic Risk Assessment Cycle — Quarterly Refresh of Priorities
- Rolling Audit Plan Mechanics — Adding and Dropping Engagements
- Plan Change Approval With the Committee — Transparency of Trade-Offs

Day 4: Auditing Strategy Execution

- Strategy Execution Audit Scoping — Milestones, Owners and Dependencies
- OKR and Balanced Scorecard Data Reliability — Trust in Reported Progress
- Portfolio Prioritisation Reviews — Resource Allocation Against Strategy
- Benefits Realisation Testing — Promised Versus Achieved Outcomes
- Execution Bottleneck Diagnosis — Decision Delays and Capability Gaps

Day 5: Assurance Over Major Change

- Transformation Initiative Assurance — Real-Time Versus Post-Implementation Audits
- Mergers and Acquisitions Integration Reviews — Synergy Tracking and Control Gaps
- Capital Project Gateway Audits — Business Case Assumptions and Cost Overruns
- Digital Strategy Assurance — Technology Investment Alignment
- Sustainability Commitments Assurance — Targets, Data and Credibility

Day 6: Governance and Board Effectiveness

- Governance Framework Assessment — Committee Structures and Delegations
- Board Information Quality Review — Decision-Ready Management Packs
- Strategic Decision-Making Process Audit — Challenge, Evidence and Dissent
- Executive Incentive Alignment Review — Rewards Versus Long-Term Goals
- Conflict of Interest and Related Party Oversight — Board-Level Exposure

Day 7: Auditing Culture and Behaviour

- Culture Indicator Selection — Speak-Up Rates, Turnover and Complaints
- Tone at the Top and Middle Assessment — Interview and Survey Methods
- Behavioural Root Causes in Findings — Linking Culture to Control Failures
- Whistleblowing Channel Effectiveness Review — Trust and Follow-Through
- Reporting Soft Findings Credibly — Evidence for Cultural Conclusions

Day 8: Forward-Looking Assurance

- Horizon Scanning Techniques — Weak Signals and Emerging Risk Radars
- Scenario Analysis for Audit Planning — Stress-Testing Strategic Assumptions
- Pre-Mortem Reviews of Strategic Initiatives — Anticipating Failure Modes
- Continuous Risk Sensing With Data — Indicators Feeding the Audit Plan
- Advisory Engagements on Strategy — Boundaries That Protect Objectivity

Day 9: Insight Reporting to the Board

- Strategic Assurance Report Structure — Objective-by-Objective Commentary
- Board Narrative Writing — Few Messages, Clear Implications
- Visualising Strategic Risk Coverage — Heat Maps and Assurance Gaps
- Private Sessions With Non-Executive Directors — Raising Sensitive Concerns
- Measuring Audit Influence on Strategy — Decisions Changed by Insight

Day 10: Practising the Strategy-Linked Audit Agenda

- Strategy Map to Audit Universe Conversion — Applying Objective-Based Coverage
- Strategic Risk Ranking Exercise — Applying Appetite and Indicator Tests
- Execution and Culture Engagement Scoping — Applying Day Four and Day Seven Methods
- Board Narrative Rehearsal — Applying Insight Reporting Techniques
- Strategy-Linked Audit Agenda — Objectives, Engagements and Board Messages

Applying Strategic Internal Auditing After the Course

- Map the current audit plan against the organisation's strategy map and present uncovered strategic objectives to the chief audit executive.
- Scope one strategy execution or benefits realisation engagement for the next quarter, with milestones, owners and data sources agreed.

Strategic Internal Auditing Questions FAQ

What is strategic internal auditing, and why does it matter now?

Strategic internal auditing aligns assurance with the organisation's objectives and tests whether strategy is executed as intended. It matters now because strategies shift quickly and boards want independent insight on execution, culture and emerging risk.

Which roles gain most from strategic internal auditing training?

Chief audit executives, audit managers and senior auditors working on transformation, governance or culture reviews gain most. Strategy and risk partners who coordinate with audit also benefit.

How does strategic internal auditing training differ from a risk-based audit planning course?

A risk-based planning course ranks auditable units by risk. This course starts from strategic objectives and adds execution audits, culture reviews, scenario thinking and board narratives that traditional planning rarely covers.

What do you bring back from strategic internal auditing training?

You bring back a strategy-linked agenda mapping objectives to engagements, a strategic risk ranking, scoped execution and culture reviews, and a board narrative template ready for your next committee cycle.

Strategic Internal Auditing: The Way Forward

The Strategy-Linked Audit Agenda first informs the next refresh of the rolling audit plan and the committee's view of coverage. The chief audit executive owns it, engagement leads use it to scope reviews and directors read its messages. Once strategy shifts or a major initiative lands, revisit which objectives deserve deep assurance and which can rely on others.