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COURSE BROCHURE

Fast Close for Monthly and Year-End Accounts Training Course

19 – 23 September 2027
Online

Fast Close for Monthly and Year-End Accounts Training Course

Ref: 1196_44943 **Date:** 19 – 23 September 2027 **Location:** Online **Fees:** 1900 GBP

Fast Close for Monthly and Year-End Accounts is a 1-week training course for finance managers and accountants, built around a Close Acceleration Plan that each participant maps for their own finance function. Boards and lenders now expect reliable figures within days of period end, yet many closes still stretch across weeks of manual work. Jupiter Prime Training designed this Fast Close for Monthly and Year-End Accounts course to shorten that cycle without weakening control.

Why Fast Close for Monthly and Year-End Accounts Matters Now

Three groups shape the close today. Executives want earlier management accounts to steer pricing, cash and costs. External auditors expect a clean year-end file with documented adjustments and evidence. Finance teams themselves are stretched, and long closes crowd out analysis work. A function that closes quickly and accurately gives decision-makers timely numbers and frees time for insight; one that closes slowly delays decisions and invites year-end surprises. The course draws on Lean value-stream mapping for close processes, the three lines model for control ownership and the applicable financial reporting framework for cut-off and accrual principles.

Who Gains Most from Fast Close for Monthly and Year-End Accounts

- Financial controllers responsible for the close calendar and sign-off of monthly results
- General ledger accountants who post accruals, prepayments and adjusting journals
- Reconciliation leads accountable for bank, intercompany and sub-ledger balances
- Management accountants who prepare variance commentary for business heads
- Finance systems specialists who configure workflows and automation in the ledger

Finance functions in retail, construction and logistics gain most when the controller and several ledger accountants attend together and redesign their close as one group.

Fast Close for Monthly and Year-End Accounts Capabilities

Participants learn to remove waiting time, rework and late surprises from every stage between cut-off and reporting.

- Design a day-by-day close calendar with clear owners — the financial controller
- Apply materiality thresholds to accruals and estimates — speed versus precision choices
- Build reconciliation routines that run before period end — balance sheet integrity
- Specify journal approval controls and segregation of duties — audit readiness
- Test year-end adjustments against a closing checklist — external auditors
- Assess which close tasks to automate first — finance systems investment

Key Fast Close for Monthly and Year-End Accounts Terms

- Close calendar — a schedule listing every closing task, its owner, its deadline and its dependencies by working day.
- Cut-off — the rule that places transactions in the correct accounting period based on when they occurred.
- Accrual — an entry recognising an expense or income earned in the period but not yet invoiced or paid.
- Soft close — a lighter monthly close using estimates and thresholds, reserving full procedures for quarter or year end.
- Continuous reconciliation — matching balances daily or weekly instead of waiting until after period end.
- Recurring journal template — a pre-built entry posted each period automatically or with minimal manual input.

Fast Close for Monthly and Year-End Accounts Day by Day

Day 1: Mapping the Current Close

- Close Process Value-Stream Map — Spotting Waiting Time and Rework
- Close Duration Benchmarking — Setting a Realistic Target Day
- Dependency Mapping Between Sub-Ledgers — Critical Path of the Close
- Stakeholder Needs From Executives and Auditors — Defining Close Outputs
- Root Causes of Late Closes — Data, People and System Issues

Day 2: Calendar, Cut-Off and Accruals

- Working-Day Close Calendar — Owners, Deadlines and Handovers
- Pre-Close Activities in the Final Week — Moving Work Earlier
- Cut-Off Procedures for Sales and Purchases — Correct Period Recognition
- Accrual Estimation Methods and Materiality Thresholds — Speed With Accuracy
- Soft Close Versus Hard Close Policy — Matching Effort to Period

Day 3: Reconciliations and Journal Controls

- Balance Sheet Reconciliation Standards — Templates and Evidence
- Continuous Reconciliation of Bank and Card Accounts — Early Matching
- Intercompany Matching and Elimination — Removing Group Close Delays
- Journal Approval Workflow and Segregation of Duties — Control Ownership
- Recurring Journal Templates — Fewer Manual Entries Each Period

Day 4: Year-End Adjustments and Automation

- Year-End Closing Checklist — Provisions, Impairments and Inventory Counts
- Auditor Request List Preparation — Clean Year-End File
- Fixed Asset and Depreciation Roll-Forward — Year-End Accuracy
- Close Automation Options — Workflow, Matching Engines and Robotic Entry
- Automation Business Case — Prioritising Tasks by Effort and Error Rate

Day 5: Practising the Close Acceleration Plan

- Value-Stream Map of Your Own Close — Applying Day 1 Methods
- Redesigned Close Calendar Draft — Applying Pre-Close and Cut-Off Rules
- Reconciliation and Journal Control Matrix — Applying Control Ownership
- Close Performance Indicators — Days to Close, Late Journals, Adjustments
- Close Acceleration Plan — Final Version for the Finance Director

Applying Fast Close for Monthly and Year-End Accounts After the Course

- Publish a working-day close calendar and move two reconciliations into the week before period end.
- Set materiality thresholds for accruals and convert the five most frequent manual journals into recurring templates.

Fast Close for Monthly and Year-End Accounts Questions FAQ

What is fast close for monthly and year-end accounts and why does it matter now?

It is a set of methods that shorten the time between period end and reliable reported figures. It matters now because executives and lenders want earlier numbers while finance teams have less time to spare.

Which roles gain most from fast close for monthly and year-end accounts training?

Financial controllers, ledger accountants and reconciliation leads gain most. You benefit if you own close tasks, post adjusting journals or prepare the year-end file for auditors.

How does fast close for monthly and year-end accounts differ from financial reporting courses?

It concentrates on the closing process, not on disclosure rules or statement presentation. You work on calendars, cut-off, accruals, reconciliations, journal controls and automation rather than accounting standards in depth.

What do you bring back from fast close for monthly and year-end accounts training?

You bring back a plan to shorten your own close. It includes a redesigned calendar, a control matrix, automation priorities and indicators your finance director can track.

Fast Close for Monthly and Year-End Accounts: The Way Forward

The Close Acceleration Plan first informs which closing tasks move into the week before period end. Controllers, ledger accountants and the finance director use it to track days to close and late journals. After the first year-end, the materiality thresholds deserve a fresh look, because audit findings show where faster estimates held and where more precision is needed.