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COURSE BROCHURE

Advanced Financial Control and Investment Appraisal Training Course

23 May – 3 June 2027
Dubai

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Registered in the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia

Advanced Financial Control and Investment Appraisal Training Course

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Financial Control and Investment Appraisal is a 2-week training course for financial controllers, chief accountants and finance managers who build a control matrix and an investment appraisal pack for their finance function. Boards now expect reliable reconciliations and disciplined capital spending to be evidenced side by side, not argued after the event. Jupiter Prime Training runs this course for senior finance staff who own both the ledger and the capital budget.

Why Financial Control and Investment Appraisal Matters Now

Three pressures meet on the controller's desk. Audit committees ask for evidence that key controls operate, not merely that they are documented. Automation of the close moves risk from manual entries to system access, interfaces and journals posted at volume. Investors and lenders test every capital request against its cost of capital and cash payback. A finance function that links control design to capital decisions protects assets and earns credibility; one that treats them apart misses fraud signals and funds weak projects. The course rests on the widely used internal control frameworks and the discounted cash flow DCF family of appraisal methods.

Who Gains Most from Financial Control and Investment Appraisal

- Those who own the month-end close, balance sheet reconciliations and journal approval
- Those who design segregation of duties and system access rules in the ledger
- Those who prepare and challenge capital expenditure requests before committee
- Those who coordinate control self-assessment with internal audit
- Those who report post-investment results against the approved case

A finance leadership group that sends its controller, its head of reporting and its capital planning lead together gains most, because the matrix and the appraisal pack then share one set of owners.

Financial Control and Investment Appraisal Capabilities

Participants move from mapping where a ledger can fail to deciding which projects deserve scarce capital, using the same evidence discipline for both.

- Design a risk and control matrix covering procure-to-pay, order-to-cash and record-to-report — audit committee
- Test reconciliation and journal controls for design and operating effectiveness — external auditors
- Run a control self-assessment cycle with clear owners and remediation dates — process owners
- Calculate NPV, IRR, payback and profitability index for competing proposals — capital committee
- Assess sensitivity, scenario and break-even results before approving spend — chief financial officer
- Build a post-investment review that compares actual cash flows with the approved case — board

Key Financial Control and Investment Appraisal Terms

- Risk and control matrix — a table linking each process risk to the control that mitigates it, its owner, frequency and evidence.
- Segregation of duties — splitting authorisation, recording and custody of an asset so no single person controls a whole transaction.
- Control self-assessment — a structured exercise in which process owners rate their own controls and agree fixes before audit testing.
- Net present value NPV — the sum of a project's future cash flows discounted at the cost of capital, less the initial outlay.
- Internal rate of return IRR — the discount rate at which a project's net present value equals zero.
- Weighted average cost of capital WACC — the blended return required by lenders and shareholders, used as the hurdle for capital projects.

Financial Control and Investment Appraisal Day by Day

Day 1: The Control Environment and Its Owners

- Internal Control Frameworks — Setting the Scope of the Finance Control Map
- Tone at the Top Indicators — Judging Management Attitude to Control
- Three Lines Model Roles — Clarifying Who Designs, Tests and Assures
- Entity-Level Controls — Deciding Which Weaknesses Affect Every Process
- Fraud Triangle Analysis — Spotting Pressure, Opportunity and Rationalisation

Day 2: Mapping Process Risk

- Process Narratives and Flowcharts — Locating Handoffs Where Errors Enter
- Financial Statement Assertions — Linking Risks to Existence, Completeness and Accuracy
- Risk Scoring Scales — Ranking Likelihood and Impact Consistently
- Key Versus Secondary Controls — Focusing Testing Effort on What Matters
- Preventive and Detective Pairs — Balancing Cost Against Speed of Detection

Day 3: Transaction Cycle Controls

- Procure-to-Pay Controls — Stopping Duplicate Payments and Fictitious Suppliers
- Order-to-Cash Controls — Protecting Revenue Cut-Off and Credit Limits
- Payroll Controls — Preventing Ghost Employees and Unauthorised Rate Changes
- Inventory and Fixed Asset Counts — Confirming Physical Existence of Assets
- Treasury Payment Controls — Securing Bank Mandates and Release Limits

Day 4: Reconciliations and the Close

- Balance Sheet Reconciliation Standards — Defining Preparer, Reviewer and Ageing Rules
- Bank and Intercompany Matching — Clearing Breaks Before Consolidation
- Suspense Account Clearance — Deciding When Unexplained Items Escalate
- Manual Journal Review — Flagging Unusual Users, Times and Amounts
- Close Calendar and Checklist — Sequencing Tasks to Shorten Reporting Time

Day 5: Systems, Access and Control Testing

- IT General Controls — Judging Reliance on Automated Ledger Controls
- User Access Reviews — Removing Conflicting Roles in the ERP
- Control Testing Methods — Choosing Inquiry, Inspection, Observation or Reperformance
- Sample Size Selection — Matching Evidence to Control Frequency
- Control Self-Assessment Cycle — Assigning Owners, Ratings and Remediation Dates

Day 6: Capital Budgeting Foundations

- Capital Expenditure Request Templates — Standardising What Sponsors Must Evidence
- Relevant Cash Flow Identification — Excluding Sunk Costs and Allocated Overheads
- Time Value of Money — Converting Future Receipts to Today's Terms
- Working Capital and Tax Effects — Capturing Hidden Cash Demands of Projects
- Terminal Value Estimates — Valuing Cash Beyond the Forecast Horizon

Day 7: Appraisal Techniques Compared

- Net Present Value Calculation — Accepting Projects That Add Value Above the Hurdle
- Internal Rate of Return and Modified IRR — Ranking Projects With Unusual Cash Patterns
- Simple and Discounted Payback — Testing Liquidity Risk of Long Projects
- Profitability Index — Rationing Capital When Funds Are Limited
- Accounting Rate of Return — Reconciling Appraisal With Reported Profit

Day 8: Risk, Cost of Capital and Choice

- Weighted Average Cost of Capital Build-Up — Setting the Discount Rate for Each Division
- Sensitivity and Break-Even Tables — Finding the Assumption That Breaks a Case
- Scenario and Monte Carlo Ranges — Presenting Risk to Approval Committees
- Lease Versus Buy Analysis — Choosing the Cheaper Financing Route
- Mutually Exclusive Project Choice — Resolving Conflicts Between NPV and IRR Rankings

Day 9: Approval, Monitoring and Post-Investment Review

- Capital Approval Authority Matrix — Matching Spend Thresholds to Sign-Off Levels
- Project Cost Tracking Controls — Catching Overruns Before Budget Is Exhausted
- Post-Investment Review Method — Comparing Delivered Cash Flows With the Case
- Non-Financial Appraisal Criteria — Weighing Safety, Quality and Strategic Fit
- Board Paper Structure — Presenting Controls and Capital Decisions Clearly

Day 10: Practising the Control Matrix and Investment Appraisal Pack

- Transaction Cycle Risk Mapping Exercise — Applying Day 2 and Day 3 to a Manufacturing Case
- Reconciliation Review Simulation — Applying Close Controls to a Healthcare Ledger
- Competing Proposal Appraisal — Applying NPV, IRR and Payback to Two Projects
- Peer Challenge of Sensitivity Results — Defending Assumptions Before a Mock Committee
- Control Matrix and Investment Appraisal Pack — Completing the Final Work Product

Applying Financial Control and Investment Appraisal After the Course

- Lead a control self-assessment of one transaction cycle and update its risk and control matrix with owners and remediation dates.
- Re-appraise one pending capital request with NPV, IRR, payback and a sensitivity table before it reaches committee.

Financial Control and Investment Appraisal Questions FAQ

What is financial control and investment appraisal, and why does it matter now?

It is the discipline of proving that ledger controls work and that capital goes only to projects that beat the cost of capital. It matters now because audit committees, lenders and automated close processes all demand evidence rather than assurance.

Which roles gain most from financial control and investment appraisal training?

Financial controllers, chief accountants and finance managers gain most. You benefit if you own reconciliations, approve journals, design access rules or prepare and challenge capital expenditure requests for a committee.

How does financial control and investment appraisal differ from a financial reporting course?

It looks inside the ledger and the capital budget rather than at published statements. A reporting course covers presentation and disclosure; this one covers how transactions are controlled and how spending decisions are tested before money leaves the organisation.

What do you bring back from financial control and investment appraisal training?

You bring back a risk and control matrix for your main transaction cycles and an appraisal file for a real or realistic capital proposal, both ready to share with your finance leadership group and your auditors.

Financial Control and Investment Appraisal: The Way Forward

The control matrix and investment appraisal pack first informs which control gaps to fix before the next audit cycle and which capital request goes forward. Controllers use the matrix with process owners; finance managers use the appraisal with sponsors and the capital committee. After its first use, revisit the discount rate and the key control list, since both shift as the business changes.