

AUDITING AND GOVERNANCE RISK AND COMPLIANCE | COURSE BROCHURE

Audit Committees in a New Era of Governance

5 days | Classroom training | English

SMART HORIZON

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Course content

Why attend

This course equips professionals with the skills to navigate the evolving landscape of audit committees within modern governance frameworks. Participants will learn to enhance oversight, ensure compliance, and foster transparency, enabling them to effectively contribute to their organisations' governance structures.

Audit committees face increasing scrutiny and complexity due to evolving regulations, stakeholder expectations, and the need for enhanced corporate governance. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for professionals tasked with ensuring effective oversight and compliance. Participants will explore how to adapt to these changes, strengthen their committees' roles in governance, and implement robust risk management strategies. These skills are essential for fostering trust and accountability in organisational governance, which is vital for maintaining stakeholder confidence and achieving long-term success in a competitive environment. Additionally, participants will learn to assess the effectiveness of their audit committees and recommend improvements that align with best practices.
This course provides practical capabilities in risk assessment, financial reporting, and ethical oversight. Participants will engage in case studies and simulations that mirror real-world challenges, enabling them to develop actionable strategies and make informed decisions that enhance their organisations' governance frameworks. By practising these skills, attendees will be better equipped to navigate complex governance issues, communicate effectively with stakeholders, and implement robust oversight mechanisms. This hands-on approach ensures that participants leave with the tools necessary to drive positive change within their audit committees and organisations, ultimately contributing to improved organisational performance and resilience in a rapidly changing business environment.

Professional Problems This Course Is Designed to Solve

- Difficulty translating subject knowledge into practical workplace decisions.
- Inconsistent approaches to the activities covered in the course outline.
- Lack of a structured plan for applying and reviewing new skills.

Course methodology

The course employs interactive workshops, case studies, and simulations to build participants' capabilities in audit committee functions. Through role-playing scenarios, participants will practice decision-making and problem-solving in governance contexts. Specific exercises include analysing fictional financial statements, developing risk management frameworks, and drafting audit committee charters. Participants will also engage in group discussions to share insights and best practices. Outputs include comprehensive risk assessment reports and governance improvement plans, demonstrating their understanding and application of course concepts. This approach ensures that participants not only learn theoretical aspects but also apply their knowledge to real-world situations, enhancing their readiness to contribute effectively in their roles.



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Course objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:
• Assess the current regulatory landscape affecting audit committees and identify key compliance requirements.
• Analyse the role of audit committees in risk management and develop strategies for effective oversight.
• Evaluate financial reporting processes and recommend improvements to enhance transparency and accuracy.
• Design an effective audit committee charter that aligns with best practices in governance.
• Prioritise ethical considerations in audit committee decisions and develop frameworks for ethical oversight.
• Construct a stakeholder communication plan to enhance engagement and transparency in governance processes.

Target audience

This course is suitable for:
• Audit Committee Members: Responsible for overseeing financial reporting and compliance, requiring updated governance knowledge.
• Internal Auditors: Tasked with evaluating risk management processes and ensuring effective governance practices.
• Compliance Officers: Focused on regulatory adherence, needing insights into audit committee functions and responsibilities.
• Finance Professionals: Engaged in financial reporting, requiring an understanding of audit committee oversight and governance frameworks.

Target competencies

Participants will develop competencies in:
• Conduct thorough risk assessments to inform audit committee decisions.
• Implement best practices in financial reporting and compliance oversight.
• Facilitate effective communication between stakeholders and the audit committee.
• Apply ethical principles in governance and audit committee functions.
• Develop and implement governance improvement strategies based on audit findings.
• Engage in collaborative decision-making processes within audit committees.

Course outline

Day 1: Understanding the Evolving Governance Landscape

Applied activity: Participants will analyse a recent regulatory change affecting audit committees and discuss its implications in small groups. They will focus on compliance strategies, potential impacts on governance practices, and how to effectively communicate these changes to stakeholders.
Output: A summary report outlining the regulatory change and proposed compliance strategies.



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09:00–09:54	Overview of governance frameworks and their evolution in the corporate sector
09:54–10:48	Key regulations impacting audit committees, including recent updates and compliance requirements
10:48–11:00	Roles and responsibilities of audit committee members in modern governance
11:00–11:30	**Coffee break**
11:30–12:12	Roles and responsibilities of audit committee members in modern governance (continued)
12:12–13:06	Stakeholder expectations and their influence on governance practices
13:06–14:00	Trends in corporate governance and audit practices affecting committees

Day 2: Risk Management and Oversight Strategies

Applied activity: Working in teams, participants will evaluate a fictional organisation's risk management framework. They will identify weaknesses and recommend enhancements based on best practices, focusing on how to implement these changes effectively within the organisation.
Output: A risk management enhancement proposal for the fictional organisation.

09:00–09:54	Identifying and assessing risks relevant to audit committees and their organisations
09:54–10:48	Developing risk management frameworks tailored to specific organisational needs
10:48–11:00	Integrating risk assessment into audit committee processes for effective oversight
11:00–11:30	**Coffee break**
11:30–12:12	Integrating risk assessment into audit committee processes for effective oversight (continued)
12:12–13:06	Evaluating the effectiveness of existing oversight mechanisms and identifying gaps
13:06–14:00	Case studies on successful risk management practices in audit committees

Day 3: Financial Reporting and Transparency

Applied activity: Participants will review a set of financial statements from a fictional company, identify areas of concern, and propose corrective actions to enhance accuracy and transparency. They will also discuss the implications of their findings for the audit committee's oversight role.
Output: A detailed analysis report highlighting issues and recommendations for the financial statements.

09:00–09:54	Understanding financial reporting standards and requirements relevant to audit committees
09:54–10:48	The audit committee's role in financial oversight and ensuring accuracy in reporting



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10:48–11:00	Best practices for ensuring transparency in financial reporting processes
11:00–11:30	**Coffee break**
11:30–12:12	Best practices for ensuring transparency in financial reporting processes (continued)
12:12–13:06	Common pitfalls in financial reporting and strategies to avoid them
13:06–14:00	Case studies of financial reporting failures and lessons learned for audit committees

Day 4: Ethics and Accountability in Governance

Applied activity: Participants will role-play a scenario involving a conflict of interest within an audit committee. They will discuss how to navigate the situation ethically and effectively while considering stakeholder impacts and potential repercussions for the organisation.
Output: A decision-making framework addressing the conflict of interest scenario.

09:00–09:54	The importance of ethics in audit committee functions and decision-making processes
09:54–10:48	Developing an ethical framework for audit committee operations and oversight
10:48–11:00	Addressing conflicts of interest within audit committees and their implications
11:00–11:30	**Coffee break**
11:30–12:12	Addressing conflicts of interest within audit committees and their implications (continued)
12:12–13:06	Promoting accountability and transparency in audit committee activities
13:06–14:00	Case studies on ethical dilemmas faced by audit committees and resolution strategies

Day 5: Integrating Governance Practices for Enhanced Effectiveness

Applied activity: Participants will collaborate to design a new audit committee charter for a fictional organisation. They will incorporate best practices, stakeholder needs, and compliance requirements, ensuring the charter aligns with modern governance principles.
Output: A draft audit committee charter that reflects modern governance principles.

09:00–09:54	Creating a comprehensive audit committee charter that reflects best practices and regulatory requirements
09:54–10:48	Strategies for effective stakeholder communication and engagement in governance processes
10:48–11:00	Evaluating audit committee performance and identifying areas for improvement
11:00–11:30	**Coffee break**



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11:30–12:12	Evaluating audit committee performance and identifying areas for improvement (continued)
12:12–13:06	Implementing continuous improvement in governance practices based on feedback and audit findings
13:06–14:00	Future trends in audit committee governance and their implications for practice

The timings provided are estimates and may vary depending on the number of participants and the discussions taking place during the sessions. They are indicative only and do not constitute a binding commitment.

Dates, venues and fees

Current published course plans. Fees are per participant in GBP, excluding unconfirmed taxes.

Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (GBP)
Singapore Confirmed dates	16 Nov 2026	20 Nov 2026	**£2,820.–**
Online Confirmed dates	16 Nov 2026	20 Nov 2026	**£1,250.–**
London Confirmed dates	7 Dec 2026	11 Dec 2026	**£2,450.–**
Online Confirmed dates	7 Dec 2026	11 Dec 2026	**£1,250.–**
Dubai Confirmed dates	14 Dec 2026	18 Dec 2026	**£3,150.–**
Online Confirmed dates	14 Dec 2026	18 Dec 2026	**£1,250.–**



Course content

Dates, venues and fees (continued)

Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (GBP)
Frankfurt Confirmed dates	4 Jan 2027	8 Jan 2027	**£2,650.-**
Online Confirmed dates	4 Jan 2027	8 Jan 2027	**£1,250.-**
Barcelona Confirmed dates	11 Jan 2027	15 Jan 2027	**£2,840.-**
Online Confirmed dates	11 Jan 2027	15 Jan 2027	**£1,250.-**
Kuala Lumpur Confirmed dates	18 Jan 2027	22 Jan 2027	**£1,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	18 Jan 2027	22 Jan 2027	**£1,250.-**
Paris Confirmed dates	1 Feb 2027	5 Feb 2027	**£2,860.-**
Online Confirmed dates	1 Feb 2027	5 Feb 2027	**£1,250.-**
Istanbul Confirmed dates	15 Feb 2027	19 Feb 2027	**£2,650.-**



Course content

Dates, venues and fees (continued)

Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (GBP)
Online Confirmed dates	15 Feb 2027	19 Feb 2027	**£1,250.-**
Amsterdam Confirmed dates	1 Mar 2027	5 Mar 2027	**£2,540.-**
Online Confirmed dates	1 Mar 2027	5 Mar 2027	**£1,250.-**
Singapore Confirmed dates	15 Mar 2027	19 Mar 2027	**£2,820.-**
Online Confirmed dates	15 Mar 2027	19 Mar 2027	**£1,250.-**
Rome Confirmed dates	22 Mar 2027	26 Mar 2027	**£2,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	22 Mar 2027	26 Mar 2027	**£1,250.-**
London Confirmed dates	5 Apr 2027	9 Apr 2027	**£2,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	5 Apr 2027	9 Apr 2027	**£1,250.-**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (GBP)
Dubai Confirmed dates	19 Apr 2027	23 Apr 2027	**£3,150.-**
Online Confirmed dates	19 Apr 2027	23 Apr 2027	**£1,250.-**
Frankfurt Confirmed dates	3 May 2027	7 May 2027	**£2,650.-**
Online Confirmed dates	3 May 2027	7 May 2027	**£1,250.-**
Kuala Lumpur Confirmed dates	17 May 2027	21 May 2027	**£1,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	17 May 2027	21 May 2027	**£1,250.-**
Vienna Confirmed dates	24 May 2027	28 May 2027	**£2,940.-**
Online Confirmed dates	24 May 2027	28 May 2027	**£1,250.-**
Paris Confirmed dates	7 Jun 2027	11 Jun 2027	**£2,860.-**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (GBP)
Online Confirmed dates	7 Jun 2027	11 Jun 2027	**£1,250.-**
Istanbul Confirmed dates	21 Jun 2027	25 Jun 2027	**£2,650.-**
Online Confirmed dates	21 Jun 2027	25 Jun 2027	**£1,250.-**
Amsterdam Confirmed dates	5 Jul 2027	9 Jul 2027	**£2,540.-**
Online Confirmed dates	5 Jul 2027	9 Jul 2027	**£1,250.-**
Singapore Confirmed dates	19 Jul 2027	23 Jul 2027	**£2,820.-**
Online Confirmed dates	19 Jul 2027	23 Jul 2027	**£1,250.-**
Rome Confirmed dates	26 Jul 2027	30 Jul 2027	**£2,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	26 Jul 2027	30 Jul 2027	**£1,250.-**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (GBP)
London Confirmed dates	2 Aug 2027	6 Aug 2027	**£2,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	2 Aug 2027	6 Aug 2027	**£1,250.-**
Dubai Confirmed dates	16 Aug 2027	20 Aug 2027	**£3,150.-**
Online Confirmed dates	16 Aug 2027	20 Aug 2027	**£1,250.-**
Frankfurt Confirmed dates	6 Sept 2027	10 Sept 2027	**£2,650.-**
Online Confirmed dates	6 Sept 2027	10 Sept 2027	**£1,250.-**
Kuala Lumpur Confirmed dates	20 Sept 2027	24 Sept 2027	**£1,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	20 Sept 2027	24 Sept 2027	**£1,250.-**
Cape Town Confirmed dates	27 Sept 2027	1 Oct 2027	**£1,890.-**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (GBP)
Online Confirmed dates	27 Sept 2027	1 Oct 2027	**£1,250.-**
Paris Confirmed dates	4 Oct 2027	8 Oct 2027	**£2,860.-**
Online Confirmed dates	4 Oct 2027	8 Oct 2027	**£1,250.-**
Istanbul Confirmed dates	18 Oct 2027	22 Oct 2027	**£2,650.-**
Online Confirmed dates	18 Oct 2027	22 Oct 2027	**£1,250.-**
Amsterdam Confirmed dates	1 Nov 2027	5 Nov 2027	**£2,540.-**
Online Confirmed dates	1 Nov 2027	5 Nov 2027	**£1,250.-**
Singapore Confirmed dates	15 Nov 2027	19 Nov 2027	**£2,820.-**
Online Confirmed dates	15 Nov 2027	19 Nov 2027	**£1,250.-**



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Dates, venues and fees (continued)

Venue	Start date	End date	Fee (GBP)
Cape Town Confirmed dates	29 Nov 2027	3 Dec 2027	**£1,890.-**
Online Confirmed dates	29 Nov 2027	3 Dec 2027	**£1,250.-**
London Confirmed dates	6 Dec 2027	10 Dec 2027	**£2,450.-**
Online Confirmed dates	6 Dec 2027	10 Dec 2027	**£1,250.-**
Dubai Confirmed dates	13 Dec 2027	17 Dec 2027	**£3,150.-**
Online Confirmed dates	13 Dec 2027	17 Dec 2027	**£1,250.-**



Course content

Plan your next step

Dates, availability, exact venue, taxes, inclusions and payment terms require written confirmation. This brochure is not a quotation, registration, booking confirmation or visa invitation. Participants receive a Smart Horizon UK certificate of attendance; programmes are not externally accredited and do not award a professional qualification or designation. Confirm arrangements before booking travel.

For group or in-house training, contact our learning team to discuss your objectives and delivery arrangements.

Contact Smart Horizon

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