

COMPREHENSIVE COURSE IN EFFECTIVE INTERNAL AUDIT LEADERSHIP



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TRAINING CENTER



Introduction

Comprehensive Course in Effective Internal Audit Leadership Training Course prepares audit leaders to build a function that management and boards genuinely value. Participants work through the audit leadership mandate, strategy and positioning, team building and talent development, risk-based planning oversight, stakeholder and audit committee relationships, quality assurance, and influence and reporting as one connected discipline. The programme links the assurance a board needs with the leadership behaviours that make it credible. As a result, learners gain a practical, defensible approach to leading audit. Furthermore, the course strengthens strategic judgement, people leadership, and executive communication.

Comprehensive Course in Effective Internal Audit Leadership Course Objectives

- Explain the internal audit leadership mandate and independence.
- Apply the IIA Standards and Code of Ethics at a leadership level.
- Build an audit strategy aligned with organisational objectives.
- Design audit structures, resourcing, and talent development plans.
- Oversee risk-based audit planning and resource allocation.
- Manage co-sourcing, outsourcing, and auditor competence.
- Lead stakeholder relationships and audit committee engagement.
- Apply quality assurance and improvement programme (QAIP) leadership.
- Handle sensitive findings and influence executive behaviour.
- Report assurance, themes, and insights to boards confidently.

Course Methodology

- Interactive sessions built on audit leadership and governance cases.

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- Workshops on audit strategy, team design, and stakeholder mapping.
- Group exercises on committee engagement, difficult findings, and influence.
- Hands-on practice with audit charters, strategies, and QAIP frameworks.
- Simulation of an audit committee meeting and a challenging management discussion.
- Facilitator coaching and peer review on personal leadership plans.

Who Should Take This Course

- Heads of internal audit and chief audit executives.
- Audit managers and deputy audit leaders.
- Senior auditors moving into leadership roles.
- Risk, compliance, and governance leaders.
- Audit committee members and board advisors.
- Consultants advising on audit function design and maturity.

Comprehensive Course in Effective Internal Audit Leadership Course Outlines

Day 1: The Audit Leadership Mandate

- The chief audit executive role, mandate, and accountability.
- Independence, objectivity, and the audit charter at leadership level.
- The IIA Standards and Code of Ethics as leadership obligations.
- Positioning audit within governance and the three lines model.
- Board and audit committee expectations of audit leadership.
- Personal leadership style and credibility.
- Case discussion: an audit function that lost board confidence.





Day 2: Audit Strategy, Structure, and Resourcing

- Building an audit strategy aligned with organisational objectives.
- Risk-based planning oversight and the audit universe.
- Audit structures: centralised, co-sourced, and hybrid models.
- Resourcing, budgeting, and capability planning.
- Talent development, competencies, and career paths.
- Performance management and measuring audit effectiveness.
- Workshop: designing an audit strategy and operating model.

Day 3: Leading People and Audit Quality

- Building and motivating an audit team.
- Delegation, supervision, and engagement review.
- Coaching, feedback, and developing auditors.
- Quality assurance and improvement programme (QAIP) leadership.
- Internal and external quality assessments.
- Ethics, independence, and conflict handling in the team.
- Exercise: designing a QAIP and capability plan.

Day 4: Stakeholders, Influence, and Difficult Conversations

- Stakeholder mapping for the audit function.
- Audit committee engagement and reporting rhythm.
- Managing the relationship with the CFO, CEO, and executive team.
- Handling disagreement, resistance, and difficult findings.

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- Negotiating action plans and commitments.
- Influencing culture and behaviour through assurance work.
- Simulation: presenting a difficult finding to executive management.

Day 5: Reporting, Insight, and Continuous Improvement

- Reporting assurance, themes, and insights to the board.
- Executive summaries and board-level communication quality.
- Strategic risk insight and horizon scanning for the board.
- Annual audit opinion and its construction.
- Follow-up leadership and closure validation.
- Audit function maturity and continuous improvement.
- Capstone: presenting an audit leadership agenda.

Conclusion

By successfully completing Comprehensive Course in Effective Internal Audit Leadership, participants will gain a practical command of the audit leadership mandate, strategy and structure, people and quality leadership, stakeholder influence, difficult conversations, and board reporting. They will acquire skills in audit strategy design, team development, QAIP leadership, and executive communication that raise the credibility of the audit function. Gentex Training Center designs the programme to help audit leaders perform with confidence.

FAQs





Q1 What is the "Comprehensive Course in Effective Internal Audit Leadership" course about?

It prepares audit leaders to build a function that management and boards genuinely value. The course spans the audit leadership mandate, audit strategy, structure and resourcing, leading people and audit quality, stakeholders, influence and difficult conversations, and reporting, insight and continuous improvement.

Q2 What are the key benefits of the "Comprehensive Course in Effective Internal Audit Leadership" course?

You gain a practical, defensible approach to leading audit that links the assurance a board needs with the leadership behaviours that make it credible. The course improves strategy and operating model design, strengthens team and quality leadership, sharpens stakeholder influence and difficult conversations, and gives you board reporting practice that raises the audit function's standing.

Q3 What skills will I gain from the "Comprehensive Course in Effective Internal Audit Leadership" course?

You will develop four core skills: audit strategy and operating model design, audit team leadership with talent and competence development, QAIP leadership with quality assessment, and stakeholder influence with board and audit committee reporting.



Q4 What tools, methods, or standards are covered in the "Comprehensive Course in Effective Internal Audit Leadership" course?

The course covers the chief audit executive role, mandate and accountability, independence, objectivity and the audit charter at leadership level, the IIA International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing and the Code of Ethics as leadership obligations, positioning audit within governance and the three lines model, board and audit committee expectations, personal leadership style and credibility, audit strategy aligned with organisational objectives, risk-based planning oversight and the audit universe, centralised, co-sourced and hybrid audit structures, resourcing, budgeting and capability planning, talent development, competencies and career paths, performance management and measuring audit effectiveness, building and motivating an audit team, delegation, supervision and engagement review, coaching, feedback and developing auditors, the quality assurance and improvement programme (QAIP), internal and external quality assessments, ethics, independence and conflict handling, stakeholder mapping for the audit function, audit committee engagement and reporting rhythm, managing the relationship with the CFO, CEO and executive team, handling disagreement, resistance and difficult findings, negotiating action plans and commitments, influencing culture and behaviour through assurance, reporting assurance, themes and insights to the board, executive summaries and board-level communication, strategic risk insight and horizon scanning, the annual audit opinion, follow-up leadership and closure validation, and audit function maturity and continuous improvement.



Q5 How is the "Comprehensive Course in Effective Internal Audit Leadership" course applied in real-world practice?

Participants apply it to real work such as designing an audit strategy and operating model, building a capability and talent plan for the audit team, running a QAIP, mapping audit's stakeholders and reporting rhythm, presenting a difficult finding to executive management, and delivering an annual audit opinion to the audit committee. The same methods support follow-up leadership and audit function maturity assessment.