HIGH IMPACT INTERNAL AUDIT LEADERSHIP



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Introduction

High Impact Internal Audit Leadership Training Course prepares audit leaders to make their function visible, valued, and influential. Participants work through the audit leadership mandate, presence and credibility, strategy and positioning, insight generation, stakeholder influence, difficult conversations, and legacy and capability building as one connected discipline. The programme links the assurance a board needs with the leadership behaviours that make audit's voice heard. As a result, learners gain a practical, high-impact leadership approach. Furthermore, the course strengthens executive presence, influence skill, and insight-driven reporting.

High Impact Internal Audit Leadership Course Objectives

- Explain the audit leadership mandate, independence, and accountability.
- Apply the IIA Standards and Code of Ethics at a leadership level.
- Build executive presence and personal credibility with the board.
- Position audit as insight provider rather than compliance checker.
- Build an audit strategy aligned with organisational objectives.
- Generate insight and themes from audit and analytics output.
- Lead stakeholder relationships and audit committee engagement.
- Handle difficult findings and influence executive behaviour.
- Build audit capability, talent, and succession plans.
- Apply quality assurance, impact measurement, and continuous improvement.

Course Methodology

- Interactive sessions built on audit leadership and influence cases.

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- Workshops on strategy, insight framing, and stakeholder mapping.
- Group exercises on board briefings, difficult findings, and influence.
- Hands-on practice with insight reports, board papers, and capability plans.
- Simulation of an audit committee briefing and an executive challenge meeting.
- Facilitator coaching and peer review on personal leadership agendas.

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 transformation.

High Impact Internal Audit Leadership Course Outlines

Day 1: The Leadership Mandate and Executive Presence

- The chief audit executive role, mandate, and accountability.
- Independence, objectivity, and the audit charter at leadership level.
- Personal credibility, presence, and communication style.
- Positioning audit within governance and the three lines model.
- Board and audit committee expectations of audit leadership.
- Ethics and professional standards as leadership obligations.
- Case discussion: an audit function nobody listened to.

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Day 2: Strategy, Positioning, and Coverage

- Building an audit strategy aligned with organisational objectives.
- Risk-based planning oversight and the audit universe.
- Positioning audit as an insight provider, not a compliance checker.
- Operating models: centralised, co-sourced, and hybrid.
- Resourcing, budgeting, and capability planning.
- Assurance mapping and coordinating with other providers.
- Workshop: designing an audit strategy and positioning statement.

Day 3: Insight, Analytics, and Reporting Impact

- Turning findings into themes, trends, and insight.
- Using data analytics for higher-impact assurance.
- Executive summaries and board-level communication quality.
- Writing board papers that drive decisions.
- Strategic risk insight and horizon scanning for the board.
- Constructing and communicating the annual audit opinion.
- Exercise: drafting a board insight paper from audit output.

Day 4: Influence, Stakeholders, and Difficult Conversations

- Stakeholder mapping and engagement strategy for audit.
- 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 holding commitments.
- Influencing culture and behaviour through assurance work.
- Simulation: presenting a difficult finding to executive management.

Day 5: Capability, Impact, and Legacy

- Building and motivating an audit team.
- Talent development, competencies, and succession planning.
- Quality assurance and improvement programme (QAIP) leadership.
- Measuring audit impact and effectiveness with KPIs.
- Continuous improvement and audit function maturity.
- Personal leadership agenda and development plan.
- Capstone: presenting a high-impact audit leadership agenda.

Conclusion

By successfully completing High Impact Internal Audit Leadership, participants will gain a practical command of the audit leadership mandate, executive presence, strategy and positioning, insight generation, stakeholder influence, difficult conversations, and capability building. They will acquire skills in audit strategy design, insight-driven reporting, executive influence, and impact measurement that raise the credibility and reach of the audit function. Gentex Training Center designs the programme to help audit leaders perform with confidence.

FAQs

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Q1 What is the "High Impact Internal Audit Leadership" course about?

It prepares audit leaders to make their function visible, valued, and influential. The course spans the leadership mandate and executive presence, strategy, positioning and coverage, insight, analytics and reporting impact, influence, stakeholders and difficult conversations, and capability, impact and legacy.

Q2 What are the key benefits of the "High Impact Internal Audit Leadership" course?

You gain a practical, high-impact leadership approach that links the assurance a board needs with the behaviours that make audit's voice heard. The course improves executive presence and positioning, strengthens insight generation and board reporting, sharpens influence and difficult conversation skill, and gives you capability and impact measurement practice that raises audit's standing.

Q3 What skills will I gain from the "High Impact Internal Audit Leadership" course?

You will develop four core skills: audit strategy and positioning design, insight generation with analytics and board-level reporting, stakeholder influence with difficult conversation handling, and audit capability building with impact measurement and quality assurance.

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Q4 What tools, methods, or standards are covered in the "High Impact Internal Audit Leadership" course?

The course covers the chief audit executive role, mandate and accountability, independence, objectivity and the audit charter at leadership level, personal credibility, presence and communication style, positioning audit within governance and the three lines model, board and audit committee expectations, ethics and professional standards as leadership obligations, audit strategy aligned with organisational objectives, risk-based planning oversight and the audit universe, positioning audit as an insight provider, centralised, co-sourced and hybrid operating models, resourcing, budgeting and capability planning, assurance mapping and coordination with other providers, turning findings into themes, trends and insight, using data analytics for higher-impact assurance, executive summaries and board-level communication, writing board papers that drive decisions, strategic risk insight and horizon scanning, constructing and communicating the annual audit opinion, stakeholder mapping and engagement strategy, 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 holding commitments, influencing culture and behaviour through assurance, building and motivating an audit team, talent development, competencies and succession planning, the quality assurance and improvement programme (QAIP), measuring audit impact and effectiveness with KPIs, and continuous improvement and audit function maturity.

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Q5 How is the "High Impact Internal Audit Leadership" course applied in real-world practice?

Participants apply it to real work such as designing an audit strategy and positioning statement, drafting a board insight paper from audit output, briefing an audit committee on themes and trends, presenting a difficult finding to executive management, building a capability and succession plan for the audit team, and measuring audit impact with KPIs. The same methods support QAIP leadership and audit function transformation.