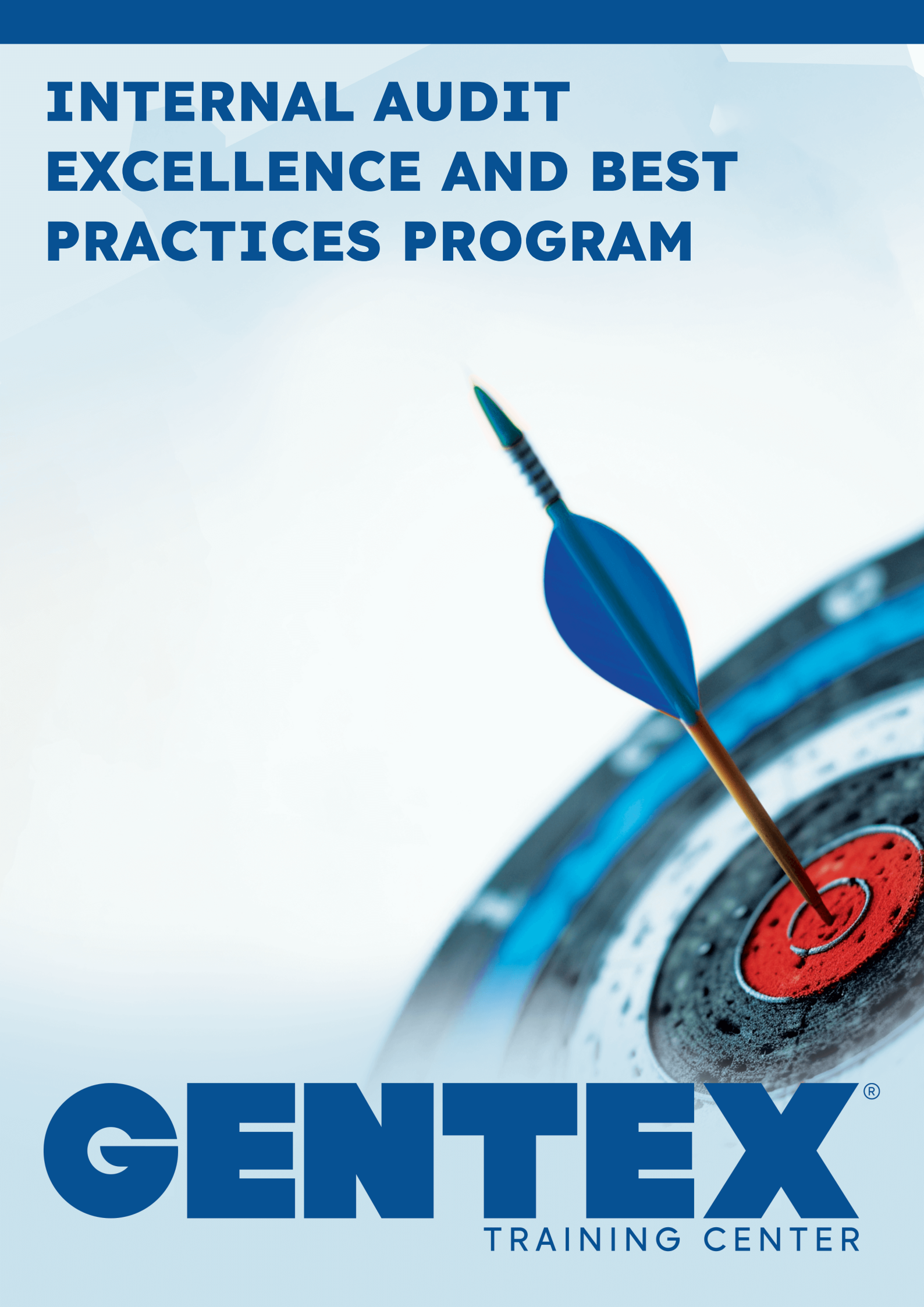
# INTERNAL AUDIT EXCELLENCE AND BEST PRACTICES PROGRAM



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# Introduction

Internal Audit Excellence and Best Practices Program Training Course prepares internal auditors to lift their function to a recognised standard of excellence. Participants work through the IIA standards and code of ethics, risk-based planning, engagement methodology, control and substantive testing, data analytics, fraud awareness, insight-driven reporting, quality assurance, and capability maturity as one connected discipline. The programme links the assurance a board needs with the methods, evidence, and behaviours that make audit credible. As a result, learners gain a practical, defensible audit method. Furthermore, the course strengthens professional judgement, evidence discipline, and reporting impact.

# Internal Audit Excellence and Best Practices Program Course Objectives

- Apply the IIA International Standards and Code of Ethics to audit work.
- Build a risk-based internal audit plan aligned with strategy.
- Apply COSO frameworks for internal control and enterprise risk management.
- Plan engagements with clear objectives, scope, and criteria.
- Design audit programmes, sampling plans, and working papers.
- Apply tests of controls and substantive testing techniques.
- Apply data analytics and CAAT techniques to audit evidence.
- Assess fraud risk indicators and evaluate anti-fraud controls.
- Write clear findings, root causes, and actionable recommendations.
- Apply quality assurance, maturity assessment, and continuous improvement.

# Course Methodology

- Interactive sessions built on internal audit best-practice cases.

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- Workshops on risk-based planning, audit programmes, and working papers.
- Group exercises on control testing, sampling, and finding development.
- Hands-on practice with audit programmes, CAAT tools, and risk registers.
- Simulation of an audit exit meeting and an audit committee presentation.
- Facilitator coaching and peer review on personal excellence plans.

## Who Should Take This Course

- Internal auditors, senior auditors, and audit supervisors.
- Audit managers and heads of internal audit.
- Compliance officers and risk management professionals.
- Finance and operations professionals supporting audit work.
- Quality assurance and internal control specialists.
- Consultants advising on internal audit and control frameworks.

## Internal Audit Excellence and Best Practices Program Course Outlines

## Day 1: Internal Audit Foundations and Standards

- Definition, purpose, and scope of internal auditing.
- The IIA International Standards and Code of Ethics.
- Independence, objectivity, and the audit charter.
- The three lines model and assurance roles.
- Types of audit: compliance, operational, financial, and IT.
- Auditor competencies and professional scepticism.
- Case discussion: an audit that lost its independence.

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## Day 2: Risk-Based Audit Planning and Coverage

- Risk management concepts and risk appetite.
- COSO ERM and the COSO internal control framework.
- Risk assessment and building the audit universe.
- Risk-based prioritisation and annual audit planning.
- Engagement planning and audit objectives.
- Resource allocation, budgeting, and audit scheduling.
- Workshop: building a risk-based annual audit plan.

## Day 3: Audit Execution and Control Testing

- Audit programmes and procedure design.
- Evidence gathering, sufficiency, and reliability.
- Sampling methods, statistical and judgemental.
- Tests of controls and substantive testing.
- Walkthroughs, observation, and inquiry techniques.
- Working paper standards and documentation quality.
- Exercise: designing an audit programme and testing controls.

## Day 4: Digital Auditing, Fraud, and Compliance

- Computer-assisted audit techniques (CAAT) and audit software.
- Data analytics for full-population testing.
- Duplicate payment, anomaly, and exception testing.
- Compliance testing against laws, policies, and regulations.
- Fraud red flags and fraud risk assessment.

- Designing anti-fraud controls and detection routines.
- Simulation: running an analytics test and reviewing red flags.

## Day 5: Reporting, Quality Assurance, and Excellence

- Structuring findings: criteria, condition, cause, effect, and recommendation.
- Root cause analysis and practical recommendations.
- Report writing, rating, and communicating with management.
- Exit meetings, management responses, and action plans.
- Follow-up, issue tracking, and closure validation.
- Quality assurance and improvement programme (QAIP) and maturity models.
- Capstone: presenting an audit excellence and improvement plan.

## Conclusion

By successfully completing Internal Audit Excellence and Best Practices Program, participants will gain a practical command of internal audit standards, risk-based planning, engagement execution, control testing, data analytics, fraud awareness, and quality assurance practice. They will acquire skills in audit programme design, risk assessment, findings development, and maturity improvement that strengthen assurance and governance. Gentex Training Center designs the programme to help professionals deliver internal audit work to an excellent standard with confidence.

## FAQs

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## Q1 What is the "Internal Audit Excellence and Best Practices Program" course about?

It prepares internal auditors to lift their function to a recognised standard of excellence. The course spans internal audit foundations and standards, risk-based audit planning and coverage, audit execution and control testing, digital auditing, fraud and compliance, and reporting, quality assurance and excellence.

## Q2 What are the key benefits of the "Internal Audit Excellence and Best Practices Program" course?

You gain a practical, defensible audit method that links the assurance a board needs with the methods, evidence, and behaviours that make audit credible. The course improves risk-based planning and control testing, strengthens evidence quality and analytics use, sharpens fraud and compliance awareness, and gives you reporting and quality assurance practice that raises audit maturity.

## Q3 What skills will I gain from the "Internal Audit Excellence and Best Practices Program" course?

You will develop four core skills: risk-based audit planning using COSO and the IIA standards, engagement execution with control testing and evidence evaluation, data analytics and compliance and fraud testing, and audit findings development with reporting, follow-up and quality assurance.

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# Q4 What tools, methods, or standards are covered in the "Internal Audit Excellence and Best Practices Program" course?

The course covers the IIA International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing and the Code of Ethics, the audit charter and independence and objectivity requirements, the three lines model, audit types across compliance, operational, financial and IT, risk management concepts and risk appetite, the COSO enterprise risk management and internal control frameworks, risk assessment and the audit universe, risk-based annual audit planning, engagement planning and audit objectives, audit programmes and procedure design, evidence sufficiency and reliability, statistical and judgemental sampling, tests of controls and substantive testing, walkthroughs, observation and inquiry, working paper standards, computer-assisted audit techniques (CAAT) and audit software, full-population data analytics, duplicate payment and anomaly and exception testing, compliance testing against laws, policies and regulations, fraud red flags and fraud risk assessment, anti-fraud control design, findings structured on criteria, condition, cause, effect and recommendation, root cause analysis, report writing and audit rating, exit meetings and management responses, follow-up and issue tracking and closure validation, the quality assurance and improvement programme (QAIP), and audit maturity models and continuous improvement.

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## Q5 How is the "Internal Audit Excellence and Best Practices Program" course applied in real-world practice?

Participants apply it to real work such as building a risk-based annual audit plan, designing an audit programme for a process, testing controls and evaluating evidence, running analytics over full transaction populations, assessing fraud red flags, drafting findings with root causes and recommendations, and preparing a maturity improvement plan for the audit function. The same methods support follow-up tracking and quality assurance reviews.