Financial Planning & Analysis: Controlling & Setting Budgets

14 – 18 December 2026
London (UK)



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Why This Course

Strong financial planning, analysis, and budgeting are essential for improving business performance, controlling costs, and making confident management decisions. Organizations need professionals who can interpret financial data, prepare realistic budgets, forecast future performance, and connect financial planning with strategic objectives.

This comprehensive 1-week course provides a practical approach to financial planning, financial analysis, budgeting, forecasting, cost control, and performance management. Participants will learn how to analyze financial statements, develop strategic financial plans, build effective budgets, manage financial risks, and use financial tools to support better decision-making.

The program combines financial concepts with practical exercises, enabling participants to apply planning, budgeting, and analysis techniques directly in real business environments.

What You'll Learn and Practice

By joining this program, you will:

- Interpret and analyze financial statements to assess performance.
- Use key financial ratios, trend analysis, and benchmarking techniques.
- Develop strategic financial plans aligned with business objectives.
- Prepare operating budgets, capital budgets, and flexible budgets.
- Apply rolling forecasts, zero-based budgeting, and activity-based budgeting.
- Use scenario planning and sensitivity analysis to manage uncertainty.
- Apply cost control techniques to optimize resources.
- Link budgets, KPIs, and performance evaluation effectively.

The Program Flow

Day 1: Financial Statement Analysis

- Understanding the structure and purpose of financial statements.
- Analyzing income statements, balance sheets, and cash flow statements.
- Key financial ratios and their interpretation.
- Trend analysis and benchmarking methods.
- Financial health assessment techniques.
- Practical exercise: analyzing organizational financial performance.



Day 2: Strategic Financial Planning

- Aligning financial plans with business strategy.
- Long-term financial forecasting and planning assumptions.
- Capital structure and financing decisions.
- Risk assessment in financial planning.
- Managing financial priorities and strategic resource allocation.
- Workshop: developing a strategic financial planning framework.

Day 3: Budgeting Fundamentals

- Types of budgets and their business purposes.
- The budgeting process and best practices.
- Developing operating budgets and capital budgets.
- Flexible budgeting techniques and applications.
- Budget ownership, coordination, and approval processes.
- Practical exercise: preparing a structured departmental budget.

Day 4: Advanced Budgeting and Forecasting

- Rolling forecasts and continuous planning methods.
- Activity-based budgeting for resource optimization.
- Zero-based budgeting and cost justification.
- Scenario planning and sensitivity analysis.
- Forecasting financial performance under changing conditions.
- Case study: improving budgeting accuracy and adaptability.

Day 5: Cost Control and Performance Management

- Cost behavior analysis and cost management techniques.
- Variance analysis and corrective action planning.
- Performance measurement and financial KPIs.
- Linking budgets to performance evaluation.
- Using financial reports to support management decisions.
- Final workshop: building a cost control and performance improvement plan.

Individual Impact

- Strengthen financial analysis and budgeting capabilities.
- Improve confidence in interpreting financial statements and reports.
- Build practical skills in forecasting, planning, and cost control.
- Enhance ability to support strategic and operational decisions.
- Gain tools to measure performance and recommend corrective actions.



Work Impact

- Improve budgeting accuracy and financial planning quality.
- Support stronger resource allocation and cost control.
- Enhance financial decision-making across departments.
- Strengthen performance monitoring through KPIs and variance analysis.
- Align financial plans more effectively with organizational strategy.

Training Methodology

This course uses a practical and applied learning approach to connect financial theory with workplace decision-making. Training methods include:

- Interactive discussions on financial planning and analysis.
- Financial statement analysis exercises.
- Budget preparation and forecasting workshops.
- Variance analysis and cost control case studies.
- Scenario planning and sensitivity analysis activities.
- Practical templates, tools, and performance management frameworks.

Beyond the Course

By the end of this course, participants will be able to conduct financial analysis, prepare effective budgets, forecast performance, control costs, and link financial planning to organizational strategy. They will return with practical tools to improve decision-making, strengthen financial performance, and support sustainable business success.

