



Advanced Financial Close Acceleration and Control Course

3 – 7 January 2027
Johannesburg

Advanced Financial Close Acceleration and Control Course

Ref: 1038_176568 **Date:** 3 – 7 January 2027 **Location:** Johannesburg **Fees:** 4500 Euro

Overview

Advanced Financial Close Acceleration and Control Course is a one-week advanced course for finance managers, controllers, close leads, and senior accountants, who leave with a Controlled Close Acceleration Roadmap. Participants redesign month-end and year-end work through financial close governance, a close calendar, critical-path analysis, account reconciliation, cut-off controls, consolidation dependencies, and exception management. The course connects faster reporting with traceable evidence and review discipline. Agile Leaders Training Center develops financial close acceleration capability.

Who Should Attend

- Finance teams responsible for period-end governance, reporting timetables, and close ownership
- Accounting teams responsible for journals, accruals, provisions, reconciliations, and ledger integrity
- Controllershship teams responsible for review controls, exceptions, evidence, and reporting quality
- Record-to-report teams responsible for close workflows, shared-service dependencies, and performance measures
- Consolidation teams responsible for intercompany alignment, submissions, eliminations, and group reporting

The course assumes participants already manage period-end accounting or reporting work and leaves basic bookkeeping, software configuration, certification preparation, and jurisdiction-specific advice outside its scope.

Departments and Industries

The course supports finance functions that coordinate recurring close work across entities, systems, and operating teams.



- Finance, accounting, controllership, consolidation, and shared services
- Manufacturing, energy, utilities, transport, and engineering organizations
- Banking, insurance, professional services, and technology businesses
- Retail, hospitality, healthcare, education, and property operations
- Internal audit, risk, treasury, tax, procurement, and business-unit finance

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Analyze close-cycle bottlenecks, dependencies, and control risks
- Build a governed close calendar and responsibility matrix
- Apply cut-off, journal, reconciliation, and evidence controls
- Diagnose intercompany and consolidation exceptions
- Use close metrics and dashboards to prioritize intervention
- Design a controlled close acceleration roadmap



Course Agenda

Day 1: Close Governance and Critical Path

- Financial Close Governance and Decision-Rights Map
- Close Calendar and Responsibility Matrix
- Close Process SIPOC and Dependency Map
- Critical Path and Bottleneck Analysis Method
- Close Risk and Control Register

Day 2: Cut-Off and Reconciliation Control

- Transaction Cut-Off Control Checklist
- Accrual and Provision Evidence Schedule
- Risk-Based Account Reconciliation Matrix
- Open-Item Aging and Exception Log
- Balance-Sheet Substantiation Review Pack



Day 3: Journals and Consolidation Dependencies

- Journal Entry Preparation and Approval Workflow
- Recurring Journal Standardization Register
- Intercompany Mismatch Resolution Tracker
- Entity Submission and Consolidation Dependency Board
- Period-Close Exception Escalation Matrix

Day 4: Year-End Readiness and Improvement

- Year-End Readiness and Evidence Checklist
- Financial Statement Completion Map
- Close Performance Indicator Dictionary
- Close Dashboard and Daily Control-Room Board
- Automation Control and Change Assessment

Day 5: Controlled Close Simulation

- Exercise: Diagnose a Close Critical Path
- Exercise: Resolve Cut-Off and Reconciliation Exceptions
- Exercise: Coordinate Intercompany and Consolidation Dependencies
- Exercise: Defend Close Metrics and Control Evidence
- Capstone Exercise: Controlled Close Acceleration Roadmap



Practical Exercises

The course uses suggested activities that connect close timing, accounting evidence, control ownership, and reporting decisions.

- Suggested activity: map dependencies and redesign a close calendar around the critical path
- Suggested activity: triage reconciliation, journal, and cut-off exceptions using risk criteria
- Suggested activity: build a daily dashboard with owners, aging, blockers, and escalation points
- Suggested activity: present a phased acceleration roadmap with controls and measures

FAQs

Who suits advanced financial close acceleration training?

Experienced finance, accounting, controllership, consolidation, and record-to-report professionals suit the training. It assumes responsibility for period-end activities, review, reporting, dependencies, or process improvement.

How does financial close acceleration differ from basic accounting training?

Financial close acceleration redesigns governance, sequencing, dependencies, controls, exceptions, and performance management. Basic accounting training usually concentrates on transaction recording, ledger mechanics, and foundational statements.

How can a finance team shorten month-end close without weakening controls?

A finance team can shorten close by moving suitable work earlier, clarifying ownership, standardizing evidence, prioritizing high-risk accounts, managing dependencies, escalating exceptions promptly, and measuring delay causes while retaining required reviews.

Which metrics support controlled financial close acceleration?

Useful metrics include task completion by critical path, overdue dependencies, reconciliation aging, unresolved exceptions, late journals, review turnaround, post-close adjustments, and repeated root causes.



How should year-end close readiness be managed?

Year-end readiness should use a governed calendar, evidence owners, account substantiation, cut-off rules, intercompany milestones, consolidation dependencies, statement-completion checks, issue escalation, and controlled reopening decisions.

Conclusion

Participants take back a Controlled Close Acceleration Roadmap linking calendars, owners, dependencies, reconciliations, journals, consolidation, evidence, metrics, and escalation. The roadmap makes delay causes and control decisions visible. Finance teams can use it to shorten recurring close cycles while preserving review quality and auditability.