

Strategic Finance Leadership for Directors and Executives

7 – 11 December 2026
Abu Dhabi

AGILE LEADERS
Training Center

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Overview

Board members and senior executives bear fiduciary responsibility for organizational value, demanding sharp financial scrutiny and disciplined governance. This course in strategic finance leadership and strategic financial leadership equips corporate leaders with the analytical tools needed to interpret complex financial reporting, direct capital allocation decisions, and maintain rigorous financial governance for directors. Participants examine how executive choices affect corporate solvency, operational liquidity, and long-term shareholder value. Through practical balance sheet analysis, cash flow evaluation, and investment appraisal methods, leaders learn to challenge executive assumptions and strengthen board financial oversight. This course is delivered by Agile Leaders Training Center.

Who Should Attend

- Executive and non-executive directors serving on corporate boards and audit committees.
- Chief executive officers, managing directors, and chief operating officers guiding corporate strategy.
- Business unit heads and divisional general managers accountable for financial performance.
- Corporate planners and strategy leaders shaping capital allocation decisions.
- Senior functional executives preparing for board-level governance responsibilities.

Departments and Industries

This programme delivers strategic value across executive leadership teams and multi-industry corporate structures.

- Executive Management and Corporate Governance
- Strategy, Planning, and Capital Management
- Enterprise Risk Management and Internal Audit
- Banking, Infrastructure, and Industrial Manufacturing
- Energy, Telecommunications, and Commercial Services

Learning Objectives

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

- Interpret balance sheets, income statements, and cash flows to evaluate enterprise health.
- Apply capital allocation frameworks to balance debt, equity, and strategic reinvestment.
- Evaluate major capital projects using net present value and internal rate of return criteria.
- Maintain financial governance standards and establish disciplined internal control mechanisms.
- Assess operational performance through targeted key performance indicators and variance tracking.
- Identify early indicators of financial distress to implement timely liquidity interventions.

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Course Agenda

Day 1: Financial Leadership and Board Oversight

- Fiduciary responsibilities, director accountability, and financial leadership standards
- Interpreting income statements, balance sheets, and statements of cash flow
- Assessing profitability, solvency, operational leverage, and liquidity buffers
- Scrutinizing accounting policies, revenue recognition, and management estimates
- Recognizing board financial oversight indicators and reporting red flags
- Collaborating effectively with chief financial officers and audit committees

Day 2: Strategic Financial Planning and Capital Allocation

- Aligning multi-year strategic plans with corporate budgeting parameters
- Establishing capital allocation priorities across competing business demands
- Evaluating capital projects with discounted cash flow and hurdle rate models
- Optimizing corporate capital structure and managing the weighted average cost of capital
- Assessing joint ventures, strategic mergers, acquisitions, and planned divestments
- Structuring dividend policy and debt financing to preserve financial flexibility

Day 3: Financial Governance, Risk and Internal Control

- Establishing financial governance frameworks to uphold board-level accountability
- Conducting risk oversight across strategic, operational, and financial exposures
- Defining corporate risk appetite and setting escalation thresholds for management
- Reviewing internal controls to ensure accurate financial reporting and asset safety
- Detecting warning signals of management bias, reporting anomalies, and fraud
- Enhancing the supervisory impact and independence of the audit committee

Day 4: Performance Measurement and Sustainable Value

- Aligning executive performance management systems with enterprise value drivers
- Selecting relevant financial indicators and enterprise balanced scorecards
- Evaluating management accounts through variance tracking and rolling forecasts
- Overseeing executive accountability through disciplined business reviews
- Reviewing sustainability disclosures under IFRS S1 and IFRS S2 frameworks
- Articulating financial results and strategic progress to key market stakeholders

Day 5: Financial Resilience and Turnaround Decisions

- Identifying early distress signals, covenant pressures, and cash drain warnings
- Strengthening working capital management to reinforce operational liquidity
- Testing business models under stress using scenario analysis and contingency plans
- Navigating corporate turnaround, debt refinancing, and asset restructuring options
- Managing lenders, rating agencies, and stakeholders during periods of financial stress
- Instilling sound executive decision-making to build enduring financial resilience

Practical Exercises

Participants engage in structured case evaluations and analytical exercises to test boardroom judgement.

- Conduct a critical review of a corporate annual report to spot hidden financial vulnerabilities.
- Assess an acquisition business case using hurdle rates, cash flow projections, and sensitivity models.
- Evaluate an enterprise internal control matrix to identify gaps in reporting integrity.
- Formulate a turnaround liquidity recovery plan for an organization facing covenant breach risks.

FAQs

What specific qualifications or prerequisites are needed for participants before enrolling in the course?

No formal accounting qualification is required. The programme is structured for directors, senior executives, and general managers who participate in strategic decisions and board deliberations. General organizational and business leadership experience provides sufficient background to benefit fully from the discussions.

How long is each day's session, and is there a total number of hours required for the entire course?

Each day involves approximately four to five hours of structured interactive learning, discussions, and practical exercises. Over the one-week duration, the course comprises twenty to twenty-five instructional hours.

Does a director need to be an accounting expert to exercise effective financial oversight?

No. Effective oversight requires sound commercial judgement, professional scepticism, and the ability to ask probing questions rather than technical bookkeeping skills. Directors must be able to test management assumptions, evaluate reporting credibility, and verify that controls operate effectively.

Conclusion

Equipped with practical governance tools and strategic financial insight, participants return prepared to elevate executive discussions and boardroom deliberations. By mastering financial statement interpretation, disciplined capital allocation, and proactive risk oversight, leaders ensure that organizational strategies remain financially grounded, resilient, and focused on sustainable enterprise value.