

Financial Analysis

INTRODUCTION

- This training course will provide you with vital skills such as financial forecasting, formulation and analysis of different scenarios, and the confidence to speak persuasively and with assurance about your financial analysis with colleagues and clients, thereby enhancing your reputation as a finance expert. By applying these skills to the tasks and challenges you face in your work, you will experience breakthroughs you may never have thought possible.

Participants will develop and refine the following competencies:

- Reading and understanding financial information to evaluate performance and trends accurately
- Embedding and applying present value concepts to expected future cash flows to make the best financial decisions
- Using comparative ratio analysis to pinpoint areas of concern
- Identifying key success factors, warning signals, negative and positive trends
- Becoming familiar with key financial metrics used by leading global companies
- Projecting with confidence the future performance of your firm and its investments through accurate, real-world budgeting

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

- Understanding the content of, and relationships between, primary financial statements (income statement, balance sheet, cash flow statement)
- Utilizing financial statements to evaluate the financial and strategic performance of an organization
- Appreciation of discounted cash flow (DCF) techniques and their application to financial decision making
- Identifying key success factors, early warning signs, and financial momentum signals in your own industry sector
- Understanding of EVA (Economic Value Added), RONA (Return on Net Assets) and other indicators, as performance metrics
- Framing the value creation/destruction process in mergers and acquisitions from the market's perspective and recognizing signals from the market to management
- Building a realistic budget, under a base case, upside and downside scenarios
- Identification and utilization of financial and business data sources that give insights into business and financial strategies
- Constructing and using rigorous excel spreadsheets for financial analysis, from the basics to more complex models
- Enhancing your professional and personal networks among colleagues of similar background, talent and potential

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Finance professionals from all sectors, who are keen to boost their performance and knowledge, skills and reputation in their firms and in the industry
- Personnel related to, moving into or aspiring to roles in finance that require deeper understanding and intelligent interpretation of financial information

TRAINING METHODOLOGY

- This Financial Analysis training course will combine presentations with interactive practical exercises, supported by visual materials, activities, discussions and examples. Delegates will be encouraged to participate actively in relating the principles of financial analysis to the particular needs of their workplace. Relevant case studies will be provided to illustrate the application of each concept in an operating environment. Each learning point will be reinforced with practical exercises.
- Advanced mathematical concepts are minimized wherever possible and presented in a visual way that is easy to understand with examples demonstrated.

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

- This training course covers essential financial skills such as understanding and interpreting numbers to build the bigger picture, utilizing tools to make rational financial decisions, and communicating analytical conclusions persuasively and with impact.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Getting started with financial analysis

- The role and responsibilities of financial management
- The relationship between accounting and finance in analysis
- Review of the primary financial statements and their purpose
- The utility of ROI (return on investment) and similar metrics
- Identifying key success factors in an industry sector
- Financial ratios: what they represent, and how they can be used effectively
- Comparing targets with expectations in financial review
- Financial performance measurement systems
- Key accounting assumptions
- Case study: basic analysis example

Moving beyond the basics

- Definitions of free cash flow (FCF)
- Altman's Z-score and its meaning
- Dupont analysis and what it reveals
- Scenario analysis: deciding on calculations and interpreting output
- Sensitivity analysis: identifying key variables and making assumptions

Evaluating information

- Interpreting new information
- Focusing on significant metrics
- Annual reports, footnotes and beyond: deriving signals
- Evaluating short-term success: process and measures
- Sourcing and using industry data
- Benchmarking for evaluation purposes
- EVA, RONA, EBITDA, etc: their meaning and utility
- Calculating the results of analysis
- Case study: completing and presenting an advanced analysis

Budgeting and the management process

- Strategy: direction and vision
- Implementing strategy: the operational planning process
- Budgets: the financial expression of the operating plan
- The purpose of budgets: control mechanism
- The human side of budgeting and finance
- Elements of the budget framework
- Advantages and limitations of budgets
- Reporting: the key to control
- Case study: preparing a budget

Completing the budget using acquired tools

- Assumptions
- Master budget
- Pro forma financial statements: income statement, balance sheet, cash flow statement
- Capital expenditure (capex) budget
- Sales and marketing budget
- Production budget
- General and administrative budgets
- Case study: completing the budget