

The Basics That Matter

People talk a lot about becoming more lean and agile. They also want to deliver insights and add value. This has led several internal audit teams to question their audit work programmes; how they are structured as well as the specific control areas to examine and the work steps to be carried out.

This course looks at these apparently basic foundations and aims to give you the chance to benchmark what you are doing and give these a “spring-clean” so they can be delivered more quickly, with a certainty of quality.

Course programme

- Improve scoping and objectives – what is the “golden thread” between the audit plan and the assignment, so that you don’t lose focus
- What are the priority areas for a given assignment?
- Using “boundary diagrams” etc., to better explain what is in/out of scope (an FMEA technique)
- Using the SIPOC technique to prioritise key risks and controls when auditing a risk or key process
- Benchmarking work programmes– learning when they are too short and when they are too long and complex – what can we learn from the new GIAS ‘topical requirements’
- Sharing control objectives – and how to use these to create a library of key controls that can be easily adapted for new assignments, so you don’t just “start from scratch” each time.
- How to test the design of individual controls and how to test whether there are enough or too many controls for a given risk?
- How to judge the impact of control failure – when it is helpful to do this at an individual level and when it is best done in aggregate
- Being clear about root causes, to deliver insight and to see the wood for the trees

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