Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Accounting and Finance Professionals: Operations and Audit Course

14 – 18 February 2027
Dubai (UAE)

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Introduction:

Artificial Intelligence AI for accounting and finance professionals is the use of machine learning, generative AI and intelligent automation to perform, check and explain accounting and finance work, from recording transactions and reconciling accounts to closing the books, auditing and forecasting. This 1-week course is for finance managers and for accountants, analysts, auditors and controllers, and delegates finish with an AI Finance Function Implementation Roadmap. It is taught at practitioner level through case studies on sample ledgers, invoices and close checklists, drawing on the IIA AI Auditing Framework, a model for governing and auditing AI.

Course Objectives:

- Define how machine learning, generative AI and intelligent automation apply across record-to-report, procure-to-pay and order-to-cash processes
- Distinguish rule-based automation from machine learning, and RPA from intelligent document processing, when deciding which accounting tasks to automate
- Apply AI-assisted reconciliation, invoice processing and close techniques to shorten the month-end cycle while keeping exception review with people
- Compare full-population analytics with sample-based testing, and anomaly scores with traditional red flags, in audit and fraud detection work
- Interpret machine learning forecasts and generative AI outputs against model risk, explainability and internal control requirements
- Justify an AI Finance Function Implementation Roadmap with a use-case ranking, tool selection, business case and governance charter

Target Audience:

- Accountants and general ledger teams who post, reconcile and close the books and decide which routine tasks to hand to automation
- Financial controllers and finance managers who own the close and reporting calendar and judge where AI can shorten it without weakening controls
- Payables and receivables specialists who process invoices and receipts and choose which matching and exception rules a tool should apply
- Internal and external auditors who test financial records and decide when AI analytics can replace or extend sample-based testing
- Financial analysts and planning practitioners who prepare forecasts and commentary and weigh machine learning outputs against their own judgement
- Finance transformation and systems leads who select tools and decide the order in which AI use cases are piloted and scaled

Course Outline:

Day 1: Foundations: AI Across the Finance Function and the Current-State Assessment

- Machine Learning vs Rule-Based Automation: How Each Handles Accounting Transactions
- Generative AI and Large Language Models: Capabilities and Limits in Finance Work
- Finance Process Map: Record-to-Report, Procure-to-Pay and Order-to-Cash Cycles Explained
- AI Use-Case Inventory: Ranking Accounting Tasks by Volume, Rules and Judgement
- Finance Data Readiness Assessment: Ledger, Master Data and Document Quality Baseline

Day 2: Architectures and Frameworks: How AI Tools Connect to Accounting Systems

- RPA vs Intelligent Document Processing: Structured Inputs Compared With Invoices and Receipts
- ERP-Embedded AI vs Standalone Tools: Integration, Ownership and Data Flow Choices
- Supervised vs Unsupervised Learning: Classification, Clustering and Anomaly Scoring for Ledgers
- IIA AI Auditing Framework: Governance, Management and Internal Audit Components Explained
- Finance Data Pipeline Design: Chart of Accounts Mapping, Data Lineage and Access

Day 3: Applying AI to Record-to-Report, Payables, Receivables and Reporting

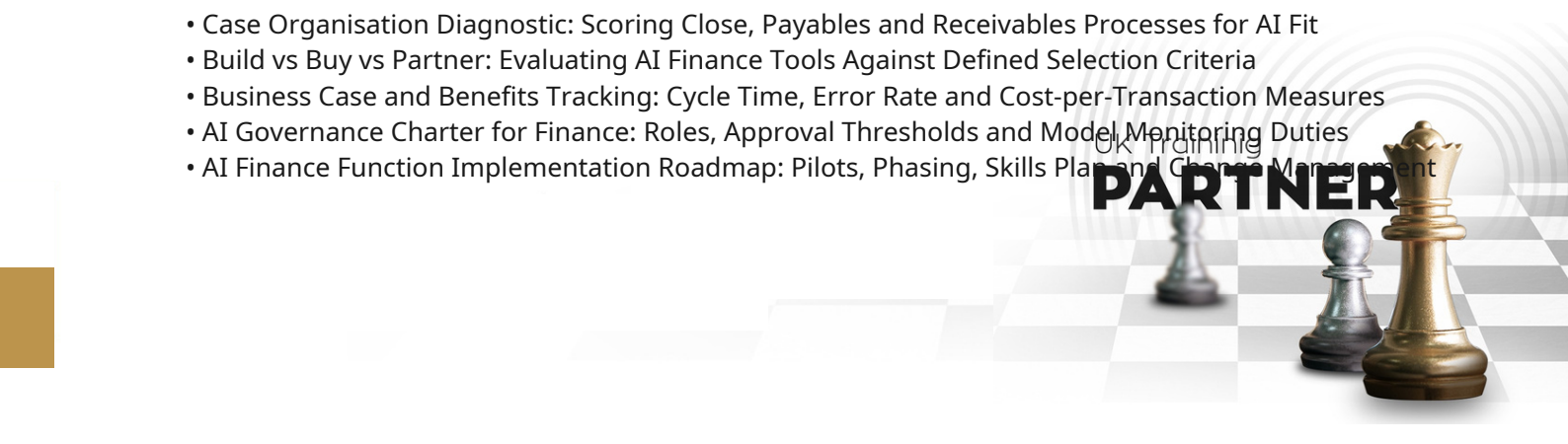
- AI-Assisted Bank and Account Reconciliations: Auto-Matching Rules and Exception Queues
- Accounts Payable Automation: Invoice Capture, Three-Way Matching and Duplicate Payment Checks
- Cash Application vs Collections Prediction: Matching Receipts and Prioritising Receivables Follow-Up
- Month-End Close Acceleration: Journal Suggestions, Accrual Estimates and Continuous Accounting Practices
- Generative AI Prompting for Finance: Variance Commentary, Management Reports and Policy Queries

Day 4: Analysing Audit Analytics, Fraud Signals, Forecast Risk and Controls Over AI

- Full-Population Testing vs Sample Testing: AI Analytics in External and Internal Audit
- Journal Entry Anomaly Detection: Fraud Red Flags, Risk Scores and False Positives
- Machine Learning Forecasting: Cash Flow and Revenue Models Compared With Driver-Based Budgets
- Model Risk and Explainability: Bias, Drift, Hallucination and Human-in-the-Loop Review
- Internal Controls Over AI-Assisted Processes: Segregation of Duties, Audit Trails and Approvals

Day 5: Case Study: Building the AI Finance Function Implementation Roadmap

- Case Organisation Diagnostic: Scoring Close, Payables and Receivables Processes for AI Fit
- Build vs Buy vs Partner: Evaluating AI Finance Tools Against Defined Selection Criteria
- Business Case and Benefits Tracking: Cycle Time, Error Rate and Cost-per-Transaction Measures
- AI Governance Charter for Finance: Roles, Approval Thresholds and Model Monitoring Duties
- AI Finance Function Implementation Roadmap: Pilots, Phasing, Skills Plan and Change Management



Skills You Will Gain:

- Intelligent Document Processing
- Automated Reconciliation Design
- Close Cycle Optimisation
- Journal Entry Anomaly Analysis
- Machine Learning Forecast Evaluation
- Prompt Design for Finance Reporting
- AI Model Risk Assessment
- AI Use-Case Prioritisation

Why Attend This Course:

- From reconciling accounts and keying invoices line by line to managing auto-matching rules and reviewing only the exceptions
- From testing small samples of journals to analysing the full population with anomaly scores and documented follow-up
- From experimenting with chat tools informally to using generative AI for reporting under clear review, data and approval controls
- From scattered AI pilots with no clear owner to presenting an AI Finance Function Implementation Roadmap with phasing, business case and governance

Conclusion:

Using AI in accounting and finance means redesigning how transactions are captured, matched, closed, audited and forecast, so that tools handle volume and people handle judgement. The course makes three distinctions clear: rule-based automation versus machine learning, full-population analytics versus sample testing, and AI-generated output versus reviewed, controlled output. It suits finance managers and practitioners, including accountants, analysts, auditors and controllers, who already know their processes well and now need to choose, apply and govern AI tools across the finance function at a practical rather than data-science level.

Frequently Asked Questions FAQ:

What should delegates know before joining an AI for accounting and finance professionals course?

Delegates need working knowledge of accounting processes such as reconciliations, payables, receivables and the month-end close, and comfort with spreadsheets. No programming or data-science background is required; the course explains each AI method in accounting terms before applying it to case material.

How does an AI for accounting and finance professionals course differ from a course on AI in financial analysis?

It focuses on accounting operations and the finance function rather than investment or risk analysis. Delegates work on reconciliations, invoice processing, the close, audit analytics, controls and an implementation roadmap, while financial analysis courses concentrate on valuation, modelling and market or credit risk.

Can AI replace accountants and auditors in accounting and finance work?

No. AI takes over high-volume matching, data capture and first-draft commentary, but accountants and auditors still set rules, review exceptions, apply professional judgement and remain accountable for the figures. The role shifts towards supervising tools, interpreting outputs and maintaining controls.

What do delegates take back to work from an AI for accounting and finance professionals course?

Delegates take back an AI Finance Function Implementation Roadmap: a ranked use-case inventory, tool selection scoring, a business case with measures, an AI governance charter and a phased pilot plan, built on a case organisation and ready to adapt to their own finance team.