

Spreadsheet Skills for Planning, Forecasting & Budgeting

Toronto (Canada)

21 - 25 April 2025

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Spreadsheet Skills for Planning, Forecasting & Budgeting

Code: FA28 From: 21 - 25 April 2025 City: Toronto (Canada) Fees: 5700 Pound

Introduction

This hands-on, practical course will demonstrate how you can develop spreadsheet models to create a forecast, which can then be utilised to generate business plans and operating budgets with the use of Excel as it is used in practice. The applications will be focused on three crucial aspects of business and financial management - strategic planning, intelligent forecasting, and realistic budgeting. Delegates will learn how accessible the power of Excel is to provide realistic forecasts and prepare flexible budgets. The impact on efficiency in planning and control and therefore return on investment for companies and/or divisions will be startling.

Training Objectives of Spreadsheet Skills for Planning, Forecasting & Budgeting

- Navigate through the features and functions of Excel
- Distinguish between data and output in spreadsheet architecture
- Analyze financial statements in order to plan ahead
- Build effective financial planning models
- Use forecasting techniques for budget preparation

Spreadsheet Skills for Planning, Forecasting & Budgeting Course Outlines

Day 1

Introduction to Spreadsheets using Excel

- The power of Excel for building financial models
- The Ribbons of Excel with their commands and functions
- Using formulae: Copying, anchoring, and special pasting
- Using functions: financial, statistical, and mathematical
- Review of the financial objectives of business: ROI, ROA, ROE
- Overview of Financial Statements

Case Study: Building a Quick Access Toolbar in Excel and applying it to the analysis of financial statements of a division.

Day 2

Proper Planning

- Classical strategic planning models

A graphic of a chessboard with several chess pieces (a king, a queen, a rook, and a pawn) on it. The board is white and black, and the pieces are gold and silver. The text 'UK Training PARTNER' is overlaid on the board.

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- Cost-Volume-Profit Analysis and Break-Even as a planning example
- Economic Order Quantity as a planning example
- What-if analysis to build scenario's and test sensitivity
- Maximizing and optimizing techniques
- Linear programming and Solver as optimising tools

Case Study: Preparing a planning model and subjecting it to a range of sensitivity analysis in a manufacturing environment.

Day 3

Fantastic Forecasting

- Forecasting in perspective - the Past vs. the Future
- The necessity to apply a range of different forecasting methods:
 - Qualitative Models used in forecasting
 - Quantitative Models focussing on time series and regressions methodology
- Forecasting growth rates
- Recording, applying, and modifying forecast assumptions

Case Study: Applying the forecasting functions in Excel to past data and building a model offering various scenario's

Day 4

Beyond Budgeting

- The budget process: Timing and Cycles
- Setting budgeting objectives and tolerance levels
- Budgeting Techniques
- "Beyond Budgeting" compared to traditional budgeting principles
- Operating and Capital budgets
- Monthly reporting procedures and timely action

Case Study: Building budget based on assumptions - Operating Budget, Cash Budget & Capital Budget

Day 5

Putting it together - building the comprehensive model

- Considering the financing mix in strategy
- Considering the Return to Shareholder as the primary indicator
- Build your planning model
- Build your forecasting model
- Build your budgeting model
- Link these together in a review

Case Study: Building an integrated planning, forecasting & budgeting model

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