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Global Learning for Operational Leaders



ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE | AF-065

Cost Reduction Strategies for Finance Leaders

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Course content

Why Attend

Pressure on margins, rising input costs and uncertain demand regularly push organisations into cost reduction. Too often, however, savings are achieved through blunt across-the-board cuts that damage capability, morale and customer service, while costs quietly return within a year or two.

This Cost Reduction Strategies for Finance Leaders training course shows how to design and lead cost programmes that are strategic, evidence-based and sustainable. Participants learn to analyse cost structures, identify savings opportunities across procurement, operations, organisation and technology, and distinguish between costs that should be cut and costs that should be protected or increased.

Course Methodology

• Participants work through a realistic case company facing margin pressure. Short expert input on each cost lever is followed by analysis exercises, opportunity identification workshops, prioritisation sessions and a final programme proposal presented to a simulated executive committee.

Course Objectives

• Analyse an organisation's cost base, cost drivers and benchmark position

• Distinguish between strategic, essential and non-essential costs

• Identify savings opportunities in procurement, operations, organisation and technology

• Evaluate savings options for value, risk, timing and implementation effort

• Design and govern a cost reduction programme with clear accountability

• Track and validate savings so they appear in financial results

Target Audience

• Chief financial officers and finance directors

• Financial controllers and FP&A managers

• Operations and business unit leaders

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Course content

- Transformation and performance improvement managers

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Course outline

Detailed course outline

Day-by-day outline for Cost Reduction Strategies for Finance Leaders.

Day 1 - Understanding the Cost Base

- 09:00-09:30 | Why Cost Programmes Fail: Short-term cuts, cost creep and lost capability
- 09:30-10:00 | Cost Base Analysis: By nature, function, activity and value stream
- 10:00-10:30 | Cost Drivers: Volume, complexity, policy and service levels
- 10:30-11:00 | Benchmarking: Internal, peer and functional comparisons
- 11:00-11:30 | Coffee break
- 11:30-12:00 | Strategic Cost Thinking: Protecting the capabilities that differentiate
- 12:00-13:00 | Data Requirements: Building a reliable cost baseline
- 13:00-14:00 | Case Study: Analysing the cost structure of a company under margin pressure

Day 2 - Identifying Savings Opportunities

- 09:00-09:34 | Procurement Levers: Demand management, specification and supplier consolidation
- 09:34-10:08 | Operational Levers: Process simplification, productivity and waste elimination
- 10:08-10:42 | Organisational Levers: Spans, layers and shared services
- 10:42-11:00 | Technology and Automation Levers: Digitising manual work
- 11:00-11:30 | Coffee break
- 11:30-11:46 | Technology and Automation Levers: Digitising manual work (continued)
- 11:46-12:20 | Asset and Footprint Levers: Property, equipment and inventory
- 12:20-12:53 | Policy Levers: Travel, fleet, energy and discretionary spending
- 12:53-14:00 | Workshop: Generating savings ideas across functions

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Day 3 - Evaluating and Prioritising Options

- 09:00-09:30 | Quantifying Savings: Gross, net, one-off and recurring effects
- 09:30-10:00 | Implementation Costs and Investment Needs
- 10:00-10:30 | Risk Assessment: Service, safety, quality and reputation impacts
- 10:30-11:00 | Prioritisation Matrices: Value versus effort and risk
- 11:00-11:30 | Coffee break
- 11:30-12:30 | Building the Savings Roadmap: Quick wins and structural changes
- 12:30-13:00 | Business Cases for Major Initiatives: Clear and credible proposals
- 13:00-14:00 | Practical Exercise: Prioritising a long list of savings opportunities

Day 4 - Leading the Cost Programme

- 09:00-09:34 | Programme Governance: Sponsorship, steering groups and initiative owners
- 09:34-10:08 | Savings Tracking: Baselines, validation and budget adjustments
- 10:08-10:42 | Avoiding Double Counting and Phantom Savings
- 10:42-11:00 | Stakeholder Engagement: Involving managers and employees in solutions
- 11:00-11:30 | Coffee break
- 11:30-11:46 | Stakeholder Engagement: Involving managers and employees in solutions (continued)
- 11:46-12:20 | Communication Strategy: Explaining the why, what and how
- 12:20-12:53 | People Considerations: Fairness, consultation and retention of key talent
- 12:53-14:00 | Role-Play: Presenting cost decisions to managers and staff

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Day 5 - Sustaining Cost Discipline

- 09:00-09:39 | Embedding Savings in Budgets and Forecasts
- 09:39-10:18 | Cost Ownership: Accountability and performance reviews
- 10:18-10:57 | Continuous Improvement Culture: Encouraging ideas from all levels
- 10:57-11:00 | Monitoring Cost Creep: Early warning indicators
- 11:00-11:30 | Coffee break
- 11:30-12:06 | Monitoring Cost Creep: Early warning indicators (continued)
- 12:06-12:44 | Reinvesting Savings: Funding growth and transformation
- 12:44-13:22 | Lessons from Successful Programmes: What leading organisations do differently
- 13:22-14:00 | Final Presentation: Cost programme proposal to an executive committee

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Seminar dates

Available seminar dates

Live dates and pricing for Cost Reduction Strategies for Finance Leaders generated from the course details page.

Date	Location	Format	Fee
7 - 11 December 2026	London	Classroom	**€2,915**
14 - 18 December 2026	Barcelona	Classroom	**€2,275**
21 - 25 December 2026	Frankfurt	Classroom	**€2,175**
25 - 29 January 2027	London	Classroom	**€2,915**
4 - 8 January 2027	Barcelona	Classroom	**€2,275**
11 - 15 January 2027	Frankfurt	Classroom	**€2,175**
18 - 22 January 2027	Paris	Classroom	**€2,810**
1 - 5 February 2027	London	Classroom	**€2,915**
8 - 12 February 2027	Barcelona	Classroom	**€2,275**
15 - 19 February 2027	Frankfurt	Classroom	**€2,175**

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Date	Location	Format	Fee
22 - 26 February 2027	Rome	Classroom	**€2,830**
8 - 12 March 2027	London	Classroom	**€2,915**
15 - 19 March 2027	Barcelona	Classroom	**€2,275**
22 - 26 March 2027	Frankfurt	Classroom	**€2,175**
1 - 5 March 2027	Vienna	Classroom	**€3,425**
19 - 23 April 2027	London	Classroom	**€2,915**
26 - 30 April 2027	Barcelona	Classroom	**€2,275**
5 - 9 April 2027	Frankfurt	Classroom	**€2,175**
12 - 16 April 2027	Amsterdam	Classroom	**€3,215**
24 - 28 May 2027	London	Classroom	**€2,915**

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Date	Location	Format	Fee
3 - 7 May 2027	Barcelona	Classroom	**€2,275**
10 - 14 May 2027	Frankfurt	Classroom	**€2,175**
17 - 21 May 2027	Cape Town	Classroom	**€1,825**
7 - 11 June 2027	London	Classroom	**€2,915**
14 - 18 June 2027	Barcelona	Classroom	**€2,275**
21 - 25 June 2027	Frankfurt	Classroom	**€2,175**
12 - 16 July 2027	London	Classroom	**€2,915**
19 - 23 July 2027	Barcelona	Classroom	**€2,275**
26 - 30 July 2027	Frankfurt	Classroom	**€2,175**
5 - 9 July 2027	Geneva	Classroom	**€3,315**

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Date	Location	Format	Fee
16 - 20 August 2027	London	Classroom	**€2,915**
23 - 27 August 2027	Barcelona	Classroom	**€2,275**
2 - 6 August 2027	Frankfurt	Classroom	**€2,175**
9 - 13 August 2027	Istanbul	Classroom	**€2,825**
6 - 10 September 2027	London	Classroom	**€2,915**
13 - 17 September 2027	Barcelona	Classroom	**€2,275**
20 - 24 September 2027	Frankfurt	Classroom	**€2,175**
4 - 8 October 2027	London	Classroom	**€2,915**
11 - 15 October 2027	Barcelona	Classroom	**€2,275**
18 - 22 October 2027	Frankfurt	Classroom	**€2,175**

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Seminar dates

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Date	Location	Format	Fee
25 - 29 October 2027	Madrid	Classroom	**€3,400**
8 - 12 November 2027	London	Classroom	**€2,915**
15 - 19 November 2027	Barcelona	Classroom	**€2,275**
22 - 26 November 2027	Frankfurt	Classroom	**€2,175**
1 - 5 November 2027	Munich	Classroom	**€2,425**
20 - 24 December 2027	London	Classroom	**€2,915**
27 - 31 December 2027	Barcelona	Classroom	**€2,275**
6 - 10 December 2027	Frankfurt	Classroom	**€2,175**
13 - 17 December 2027	Paris	Classroom	**€2,810**
7 - 11 December 2026	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**

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Date	Location	Format	Fee
14 - 18 December 2026	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
21 - 25 December 2026	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
25 - 29 January 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
4 - 8 January 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
11 - 15 January 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
18 - 22 January 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
1 - 5 February 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
8 - 12 February 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
15 - 19 February 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
22 - 26 February 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**

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Date	Location	Format	Fee
8 - 12 March 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
15 - 19 March 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
22 - 26 March 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
1 - 5 March 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
19 - 23 April 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
26 - 30 April 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
5 - 9 April 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
12 - 16 April 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
24 - 28 May 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
3 - 7 May 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**

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Date	Location	Format	Fee
10 - 14 May 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
17 - 21 May 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
7 - 11 June 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
14 - 18 June 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
21 - 25 June 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
12 - 16 July 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
19 - 23 July 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
26 - 30 July 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
5 - 9 July 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
16 - 20 August 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**

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23 - 27 August 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
2 - 6 August 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
9 - 13 August 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
6 - 10 September 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
13 - 17 September 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
20 - 24 September 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
4 - 8 October 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
11 - 15 October 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
18 - 22 October 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
25 - 29 October 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**

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15 - 19 November 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
22 - 26 November 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
1 - 5 November 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
20 - 24 December 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
27 - 31 December 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
6 - 10 December 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**
13 - 17 December 2027	Online / Live	Online / Live	**€1,625**