

EFFECTIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUDIT

"Enhancing Innovation Performance, Compliance, and ROI through Structured R&D Audits"

Schedule

Date	Venue	Fees (Face-to-Face)
12 - 16 Oct 2026	London, UK	USD 3495 per delegate

► **Available delivery methods:** Face-to-Face & Online Training

Introduction

Research and Development (R&D) plays a pivotal role in driving innovation, competitiveness, and long-term value creation. However, without proper governance, measurement, and evaluation, R&D activities may lack direction, efficiency, or compliance with internal and external standards. An effective R&D audit ensures that innovation efforts are well-structured, goal-oriented, compliant, and aligned with organizational strategy.

This comprehensive 5-day training enables professionals to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, and risk exposure of R&D programs. Participants will learn how to plan and conduct R&D audits, evaluate innovation pipelines, ensure regulatory and tax compliance, and promote continuous improvement in research performance.

Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Understand the unique objectives, risks, and structures of R&D operations
- Plan and perform R&D audits using globally accepted frameworks
- Evaluate project portfolios, resource allocation, timelines, and outputs
- Assess compliance with innovation policies, standards, and tax regulations
- Identify gaps, inefficiencies, and improvement opportunities in the R&D process

Why Attend

- Ensure that R&D investments are efficient, goal-aligned, and risk-managed
- Improve visibility and accountability in innovation activities
- Prepare your organization for internal reviews, tax audits, or ISO certifications
- Strengthen audit skills specific to scientific and technical environments
- Build frameworks that enhance return on innovation spending

Target Audience

This program is designed for:

- Internal auditors and audit managers
- R&D managers, innovation leaders, and technical directors
- Finance professionals responsible for R&D tax claims or grants
- Compliance officers and corporate governance professionals
- Quality, regulatory, and process improvement specialists

Individual Benefits

Key competencies that will be developed include:

- R&D governance, risk, and control understanding
- Audit planning, execution, and reporting for innovation activities
- Project evaluation and KPI benchmarking
- Documentation, traceability, and scientific data review
- Knowledge of applicable ISO, OECD, and financial standards for R&D

Organizational Benefits

Upon completing the training course, participants will demonstrate:

- Stronger control over innovation costs and timelines
- Compliance with tax incentives, funding rules, and reporting requirements
- Higher R&D efficiency through project prioritization and resource optimization
- Improved innovation governance and decision-making support
- Better documentation and audit trail for intellectual property and inventions

Instructional Methodology

The course follows a blended learning approach combining theory with practice:

- Strategy Briefings - Global R&D frameworks and compliance requirements
- Case Studies - Audits of R&D labs, product development, and funded research
- Workshops - Risk assessment, audit planning, evidence gathering, and reporting
- Peer Exchange - Sector-specific insights from pharma, tech, energy, etc.
- Tools - R&D audit templates, risk matrices, scoring models, and checklists

Course Outline

Detailed 5-Day Course Outline

Training Hours: 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM Daily Format: 3-4 Learning Modules | Coffee breaks: 09:30 & 11:15 | Lunch Buffet: 01:00 - 02:00

Day 1: Understanding the R&D Environment and Risk Landscape

- Module 1: Nature and Structure of R&D Functions (07:30 - 09:30) • Types of R&D (basic, applied, experimental, product development) • Centralized vs. decentralized R&D governance
- Module 2: Risks and Controls in R&D Activities (09:45 - 11:15) • Innovation risk mapping - financial, legal, technical, reputational
- Module 3: Global R&D Compliance Frameworks (11:30 - 01:00) • ISO 56002 (Innovation Management), OECD Frascati Manual, tax compliance
- Module 4: Workshop - R&D Risk Assessment (02:00 - 03:30) • Participants map risks across a sample innovation portfolio

Day 2: Audit Planning and Project Evaluation

- Module 1: Audit Planning and Scoping (07:30 - 09:30) • Objectives, scope, audit universe, resource planning
- Module 2: Project Selection and Materiality (09:45 - 11:15) • Determining audit focus areas: budget, stage, strategic value
- Module 3: Evaluating Innovation Pipeline and Portfolio (11:30 - 01:00) • Stage-gate models, KPIs, and project success indicators
- Module 4: Workshop - Scoping an R&D Audit Plan (02:00 - 03:30) • Participants prepare audit scope and fieldwork strategy

Day 3: Fieldwork and Evidence Collection

- Module 1: Process Walkthroughs and Interviews (07:30 - 09:30) • Engaging scientists, engineers, and project managers
- Module 2: Documentation and Record Review (09:45 - 11:15) • Proposals, lab notes, trial data, reports, IP files, ERP records
- Module 3: Cost Tracking, Budgeting, and Financial Controls (11:30 - 01:00) • Cost categorization for tax claims and project accountability
- Module 4: Workshop - Evidence Checklist and Sample Review (02:00 - 03:30) • Evaluate R&D documentation against audit expectations

Day 4: Reporting, Compliance & Continuous Improvement

- Module 1: Compliance with External Requirements (07:30 - 09:30) • R&D tax incentives, grant audits, patents, confidentiality
- Module 2: Root Cause Analysis and Recommendations (09:45 - 11:15) • Identifying process gaps, control weaknesses, and improvements
- Module 3: Report Writing and Stakeholder Communication (11:30 - 01:00) • Clarity, structure, scoring, and action tracking
- Module 4: Workshop - Drafting an R&D Audit Report (02:00 - 03:30) • Participants prepare a report outline with sample findings

Day 5: Integrated R&D Audit Simulation and Certification

- Module 1: Group Simulation - Full R&D Audit Cycle (07:30 - 09:30) • Teams execute a mock audit from planning to reporting
- Module 2: Peer Review and Lessons Learned (09:45 - 11:15) • Feedback and refinement of audit strategy
- Module 3: Final Briefing - Strategic Role of R&D Audit (11:30 - 01:00) • How audit enhances innovation performance and investment readiness
- Module 4: Certification & Wrap-Up (02:00 - 03:30) • Participant action planning and certificate distribution

Certification

Participants will receive a Certificate of Completion in Effective Research and Development Audit, recognizing their capability to plan, conduct, and report audits that enhance innovation, compliance, and R&D value generation.

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