

Financial Modelling Masterclass

Credit & Finance



Virtual



16 hours



USD 900



Registration Deadline

9-Apr-2025

Course Description:

The aim of the course over two days is to teach delegates a range of standard solutions to common design problems faced when building more detailed time series forecasting models. After the course delegates should be faster and more effective in building reliable and flexible valuation and corporate planning and structuring models. The course will introduce delegates to a range of fundamental tools for flexibly referencing data and use these to build scenario managers and sensitivity tools. At the end of the course delegates should have a good working understanding of the process of building time flexibility into models and avoiding circularity and a range of other common design defects.

Target Audience:

- Chief audit executives, audit managers, auditors-in-charge, senior and staff auditors,
- junior auditors and professionals working in other control functions (Compliance Units,
- External Auditors, Members of the Board, Audit Committee members, Security
- Professionals, Risk Management, Line and Senior Managers, Team Leaders, etc.)
- seeking an opportunity to apply ESG strategy and practice, to audit the existing ESG
- practices and to get tools and techniques to develop a focused approach and best
- practices for ESG issues.

Course Objectives:

- Review the principles of best practice and implement best practice solutions;
- Develop delegates' code writing skills;
- Develop tools for managing scenarios and sensitivity analysis;
- Implement a time flexible framework in a model; and
- Build a flexible debt schedule for a model avoiding circularity.

Course Outline:

Golden rules of model design

- What is best practice in design?
- Why design? Standard models: can they work?
- Design rules, a framework for establishing scope

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Excel set-up & Basics

- Excel shortcuts – a review
- Essential Add-ins
- Calculation options – iteration issues
- Consistency of formats – styles and templates to make it quick and easy

Key model elements and control methods

- Log sheet, control panel, version control and saving procedure
- Modular design – how and why

Code writing – best practice

- Problem-solving strategies: how to ask the question
- Strategies for developing reliable simple code
- Practical code building techniques
- If(), And(), Or() and avoiding them
- Flags in problem solving
- Range Names – what they are, how to use them and what they mean

Advanced scenario management and data retrieval

- Different methods to select the scenarios
- Numbers, data validation, simple Visual Basic (VB) tools
- The Lookup variations compared – Vlookup, Hlookup vs. XLOOKUP, INEX and OFFSET
- Types of switches
- Building a fully flexible scenario manager
- Using data tables with a scenario manager to automate complex sensitivities.

Auditing

- What to look out for on opening, finding and killing circularity
- Finding and killing links
- The “coding clarity index” and how to use it
- Troubleshooting
- Auditing tools – F2 vs. Ctrl-[vs. Auditing Toolbar vs. F5-Special

Managing quality

- Internal audit
- Managing quality in your own models
- Formal control procedures and third-party model audit - lessons to be learned
- Building diagnostic tests

Depreciation and capex

- Cascade vs. BASE calculation
- Consistency issues

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- Transposing arrays
- The index solution

Modelling for date flexibility

- Add-ins for date functionality – Eomonth, Edate etc
- Change the start date; change the length of forecast periods
- Flexibly consolidating quarterly and semi-annual models into annuals without repeating data

Debt modelling and structuring

- Finding the debt capacity and fitting it to the cash flows
- Planning to avoid circularity
- Is circularity really necessary?
- Debt amortisation schedules
- Revolver
- Switching between payback profiles

Analysing data

- Sensitivity analysis – review impact of altering key inputs
- Goal seek
- Data tables
- Automating data table updates for model modifications
- Diagnostics to indicate inconsistencies

Advanced sensitivities- Monte Carlo analysis in Excel

- Using data tables with distributed inputs
- Building a Monte Carlo engine in Excel
- Diagnostics to indicate inconsistencies

Additional session subject to time

Macros

- Are they good / useful / necessary?
- Building macro to avoid circularity
- Recording
- Editing and understanding visual basic
- Creating loops
- Using counters

The course comprises many case-study exercises, the main ones covering the following:

- Model design and layout best practice – the golden rules of modelling
- Switches – building scenario selection switches to allow quick and easy analysis based on assumption inputs

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- Addressing circularity in debt modelling
- Cash sweeps and integrating liquidity facilities into models
- Creating detailed debt models for integration into an operating statement – cash flows and/ or P&L as well as balance sheet
- Data flexibility – consolidating monthly time series into quarterly or annual summaries for presentation
- Mass data modelling – addressing massive revenue engines in models and how to structure
- Using flags and data tables to select and process time series data
- Model audit – identifying ‘problems’ with a case-study model and recommending design improvements

Course Language:

English

Fees:

Early bird:

in case of nominating before 16 January 2025 the cost per participant will be **USD 800**

Group Fees:

In case of nominating 3 participants , the cost per participant will be **USD 800**

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Instructor Bio:

Greg Mayes, ACA CFA

Greg is co-founder and managing director of Capital City Training and Consulting, a financial training consultancy. After graduating with a degree in Economics and Maths, Greg qualified as an ACA with Ernst & Young in London, working with financial service clients - investment banks and insurance companies. Greg spent several years working for the UK's leading accountancy training provider before becoming a CFA® charter-holder and turning his focus toward investment banking and investment management, in-house at Barclays.

Greg worked at Barclays Global Investors (now BlackRock) and Barclays Capital for 7 years where he worked with sales, investment banking, product control and operations on development and technical training. Greg was Global Head of Financial Markets Training and had responsibility as an internal consultant for the design and delivery of client training programs, and working with teams including RMs, leveraged finance and IBD in accounting, financial modelling and financial products and derivatives.

Examples of workshops Greg has facilitated include accounting and analysis, corporate finance and valuation, structured products; risk management; equity, FX and asset allocation for wealth clients; credit and rate risk solutions and trading strategies for investor clients, such as swap-based LDI investing. He delivers Capital City's highly popular Financial Modelling programs to a number of key account clients on a regular basis including HSBC, Lloyds Banking and BlackRock, and has delivered training on behalf of the ACCA, ACT and the BVCA.

Greg now has 20 years of experience working in and around investment banks, corporate treasurers, wealth managers and institutional fund managers, giving him a broad inside knowledge of the industry demands. This inside track, together with his academic strength, means Greg has a wealth of practical and academic knowledge. As a trainer, Greg has worked with many major investment banks, including Morgan Stanley, Barclays Capital, Bank of America (Merrill Lynch), RBS and HSBC. He has also authored a text on financial mathematics and is one of CCT's regular bloggers on financial accounting, modelling and corporate finance. He delivers training in the areas of accounting, financial analysis, modelling and valuation, capital markets and investment and trading strategies.