

Top governance, risk and compliance certification courses for 2020

Sharpen your skills, raise your profile and become a governance, risk and compliance expert



Our software reduces compliance burden associated with regulations and standards such as:



Why we created this guide to the best GRC training courses

“Unlike many other professions, the GRC career path is only loosely defined. With such a broad mixture of managerial and technical skills required to master the role, continuing professional development is crucial.

But there wasn't anywhere online where I could easily find the best training courses.

So I reached out to dozens of training course providers within the GRC space and assessed their courses to develop this list of the **seven best GRC training courses available for 2020-21**.

Peer-reviewed by our Compliance Director Kate Armitage, these courses have been ranked by category to help you focus on the skill sets that matter most to you and your business.”

Alex Pavlović
GRC Market Intelligence Analyst
Qualsys



Contents



Best for GRC beginners

Winner: OCEG, Professional Certificate in GRC course

4



Best for risk management

Winner: University of Cambridge JBS, 'Managing risk for competitive advantage' course

6



Best for internal auditors

Winner: IIA, Award in Compliance Audit & Assurance course

8



Best for corporate governance

Winner: The GRC Group, Certified in Corporate Governance/Certified Governance Professional course

10



Best for lean

Winner: ASQ, Lean Six Sigma Black Belt course

12



Best for building a quality strategy

Winner: CQI, 'Leading Quality Strategy & Planning' course

14



Best for information security

Winner: IT Governance, Certified Information Systems Security Professional Accelerated course

16

1. Best for GRC beginners



US-based OCEG is a non-profit think tank registered as a public charity, with 80,000 global members.

OCEG was founded in 2002 with a mission to drive good governance, risk and compliance across the business world.

In 2005 OCEG published the GRC Capability Model, also known as the Red Book.

The Red Book outlines "the integration of the governance, assurance and management of performance, risk, compliance and ethics" in a general GRC structure for businesses and professionals to apply.

OCEG's Governance, Risk & Compliance Professional (GRCP) course is designed to give beginners a broad understanding of the role and business benefits of GRC and the Capability

"The GRCP is the only certification that demonstrates understanding of the GRC Capability Model, which is the only publicly vetted set of standards for an integrated GRC structure.

Tens of thousands of people have downloaded and applied the Model.

And 7500 people have taken the exam in the past 5 years.

Every single day we hear from an OCEG member who has just completed their GRCP certification and is excited about how it is assisting them in their career and in helping them improve and protect their organisations.

The course is making a difference and that's hugely affirming."



**Carole Switzer
President, Co-Founder
OCEG**

GRC Professional Certification

Overview

GRCP certification proves that you're a qualified governance, risk and compliance professional who understands the GRC Capability Model and how to apply it to a business.

The course aims at breadth rather than depth, giving participants the skills to understand and integrate the various components of the GRC approach - from governance and performance management to risk management, internal control and compliance.

Individual benefits:

- Globally recognised certification proving you understand the broad basics and structure of GRC
- Access to OCEG's GRC resource library for ongoing learning
- Well-rounded understanding that prepares you for specialisation in a particular area

Benefits to your business:

- Competent GRC professionals ready to apply the Capability Model
- Access to hundreds of ebooks, videos, articles and research papers to inform projects and future GRC direction
- Break down operational silos with an integrated GRC approach
- Proven increase in business confidence

How it works:

- Purchase an All Access Pass on the OCEG website
- Access OCEG's GRC resource library to begin your research and learning
- When you're ready, take a 2-hour 100-question online examination. You must achieve a 70% score or higher to pass the exam.
- The emphasis is on learning, not testing - so you can retake the exam if you fail, and you're encouraged to continue learning and accessing resources long after you pass
- Once you're certified, you can use your GRCP knowledge as a springboard to move onto the next tier: GRC Audit (GRCA) certification

Who it's for:

- Beginners looking to get into GRC for the first time
- GRC professionals who want to consolidate their knowledge and gain certification
- Experienced professionals working in a single area of GRC, such as risk management, who want to broaden and round out their role and start managing other areas of the Capability Model

Price:

The All Access Pass gives you access to OCEG's GRC resource library and the GRCP online exam for \$399 (£315).

Team bundles are available too, so you and your colleagues can become certified together.

"The GRCP course is perfect for anyone wanting to get into the world of GRC and is passionate about making their business stronger and more integrated."

A robust quality and GRC system is the difference between a good business and a great one.

Understanding the Capability Model and how you can apply it is the first step on that journey."

Kate Armitage
Compliance Director
Qualsys



For more details:

support@oceg.org

+1 (602) 234-9278

2. Best for risk management



COVID-19. Brexit. Fukushima. Katrina. The financial crash.

Major business shocks and disruptions are a fact of life, and can do irreparable damage to your operation.

That's why risk management is a critical exercise no business can do without.

Business leaders need to understand the risks they face and how to treat them in an ongoing, structured way.

But they also need to be proactive and positive, turning risks into opportunities and uncertainty into advantage.

The University of Cambridge's Judge Business School is consistently ranked as one of the finest in the world. This 3-day course gives corporate leaders everything they need to turn risk into a competitive weapon.

"We preach neither prediction nor despair. Instead, we say, "plan to be surprised!"

Look at your firm's revenue: which types of threat, external and internal, pose the most concern to your firm's receipts? Which locations in the supply chain and consumer markets are exposed to the most revenue risk? What is the chance of a shock that causes substantial revenue loss – perhaps 10 per cent or more – next year?

A recipe for nightmares, maybe. But confronting all of your nightmares is the first step to building a breakwater to minimise the harm that may come your way."



Daniel Ralph
Professor of Operations Management
Judge Business School

Managing risk for competitive advantage

Overview

This 3-day course from the JBS is designed to equip business leaders with the understanding, tools and techniques of effective risk management.

Core topics include behavioural risk, applying risk management frameworks, operationalising risk response, and building risk into your organisational culture and make-up.

Individual benefits:

- Understanding of how to leverage risk as a positive, business-driving force which augments competitive advantage
- Practical risk framework knowledge to apply to your operation
- Understanding of immediate and long-term risks
- Provides 3 of the 10 learning days needed for the JBS General Management Certificate of Achievement

Benefits to your business:

- Transition from negative, reactive risk management to proactive, positive risk control
- Harness your unique risk environment to strengthen your operation
- Bake accountability, risk awareness and stronger decision-making into your culture

How it works:

- 3-day face-to-face class course in Cambridge, U.K.
- Small groups (max. 25) to maximise value
- 3-step learning programme, from recognising risk-related and decision-making behaviour, to the strategic challenges of modern business, to managing risk in enterprises
- Presented by Professor of Operations Research Daniel Ralph and Reader in Operations Management Kishore Sengupta

Who it's for:

- Senior business strategy leaders
- Executive risk management professionals, such as Chief Risk Officers
- Business leaders looking to address future challenges and drive competitive advantage

Price:

The 3-day 'managing risk for competitive advantage' course is priced at £3300 + VAT.

Groups and UoC alumni can access preferential rates.

"Any 21st-century business leader should understand corporate risk and how to approach it.

The JBS' 3-day course is my pick for the best risk management course because it centres on a key point: risk management isn't just a tick-box exercise to protect and insulate.

Done properly, it's a tool for growing and strengthening your market position and building a real culture of quality. Risk managers have a vital role to play to kick-start this change."

Kate Armitage
Compliance Director
Qualsys



For more details:

executive.education@
jbs.cam.ac.uk
+44 (0)1223 765496

3. Best for internal auditors



Chartered Institute of
Internal Auditors

Internal auditors are the eyes, ears and conscience of the organisation.

And gathering evidence and uncovering risks and opportunities is the key to driving the future direction of any organisation.

The Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors is the only professional association for British and Irish internal auditors - making it the perfect place to visit to sharpen your auditing skills.

From building effective relationships to leveraging the third line of defence, the skills taken from an IIA Award in compliance audit and assurance are a key building block for any auditor looking to progress to a managerial or oversight position.

injuries and occurrences follows:-

spine or pelvis.

one in the arm or wrist, excluding bones in the hand.

one in the leg or ankle, excluding any bone in the foot.

hand, foot, finger, thumb or toe or any part thereof if the

completely severed.

of an eye, a penetrating injury to the eye or a chemical or hot

eye.

ding burns) requiring urgent medical treatment, loss of

resulting in either case from an electric shock from any

equipment, whether or not due to direct contact.

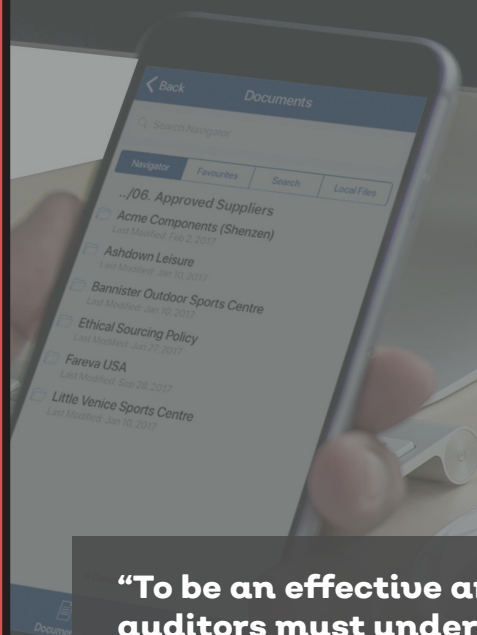
ess resulting from lack of oxygen.

requiring medical treatment or loss of consciousness -

ase from the absorption of any substance by inhalation,

the skin.

results in the person injured being admitted immediately



“To be an effective and trusted partner, internal auditors must understand their organisations’ business well enough to know, understand, and anticipate risks. A firm grounding in the organisation’s strategy and operations is essential to see the risk landscape fully.

Boards also want assurance that their corporate culture encourages collaboration across the organisation to develop business plans that adapt to market disruptions, such as the COVID-19 epidemic.

Internal audit should be providing that assurance.”



Richard Chambers
President
IIA

IIA Award in compliance audit and assurance

Overview

This 2-day course from the IIA introduces delegates to the core processes, techniques and responsibilities of the modern compliance and assurance auditor, while making sure they understand their role within the wider organisation.

Individual benefits:

- Knowledge of how to apply internal auditing for a robust compliance framework
- Understanding of the various ways to examine, test and assure an organisation's compliance programme
- Ability to write a risk statement, report effectively, apply a risk matrix, perform root cause analysis, and more
- Competence in evaluating audit evidence and building clear, actionable conclusions
- 1 of the 4 IIA Awards which form the IIA Certificate in Internal Audit & Business Risk

Benefits to your business:

- Standardised auditing programmes with clear objectives and responsibilities
- Actionable tools, techniques and takeaways to apply
- Understanding of how to coordinate the third line of defence (internal audit teams) to drive compliance and ethics through the organisation

How it works:

- Pre-course preparation provided upon sign-up
- 2-day face-to-face classes in London, Birmingham and York
- Comprehensive learning programme covering the modern compliance auditor role, including planning, testing, reporting and assurance
- Presented by Dr Marian Silltow CFIIA, former internal auditor in a range of business sectors
- Award presented upon completion of the course

Who it's for:

- New compliance and assurance professionals
- Internal audit leaders looking to refresh how compliance is assessed and assured in their business
- Auditors performing compliance/assurance reviews who want to embed best practice into their operation
- Auditors looking to progress to a compliance management position

Price:

It depends on whether you're a member of the IIA or not.

Members can complete the Award for £1175 + VAT.

For non-members, it's £1390 + VAT.

Membership itself has tiered pricing, ranging from student and affiliate membership (£200 p.a.) to chartered membership (£263 p.a.) and audit leader membership (£850 p.a.)

"ISO 19011 has been a hugely popular standard in recent years, which shows that businesses are thinking carefully about how to build and apply internal auditing programmes that really make a difference."

The IIA Award in compliance audit and assurance, and the broader IIA Certificate it's part of, is a good way for businesses to arm their compliance teams and their second line of defence with the all-round knowledge and skill set needed to apply a modern audit plan."

Kate Armitage
Compliance Director
Qualsys



For more details:

trainingandevents@iia.org.uk
+44 (0)20 7498 0101

4. Best for corporate governance

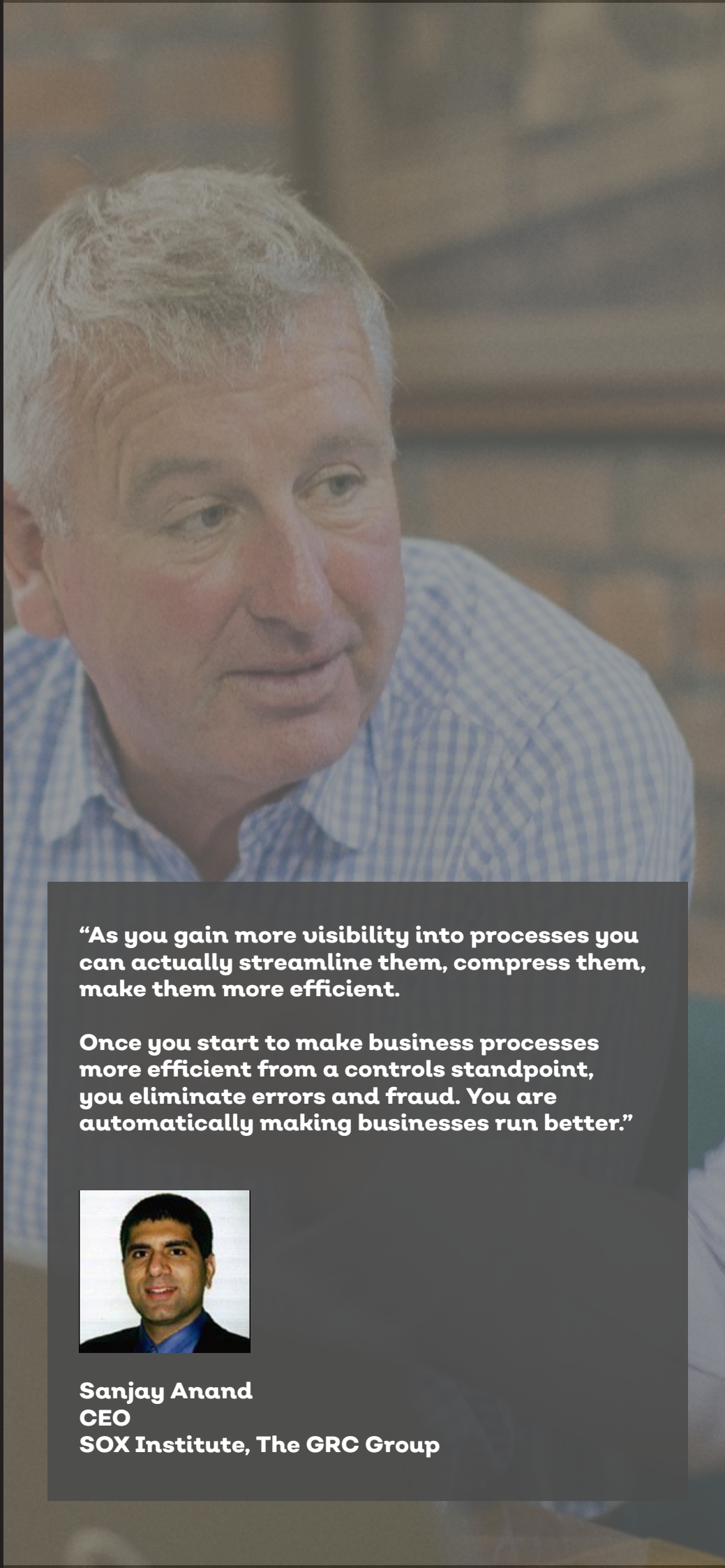


The GRC Group delivers training and certification for thousands of GRC professionals worldwide, through its twin SOX and GRC institutes.

From integrated risk and internal control management to IT governance and CSOX certification, the GRC Group's tight focus on the governance, risk and compliance space means dedicated and specialised training courses for professionals looking to gain new skills.

The GRC Group offers two tiers of certification: base and pro.

Begin your corporate governance accreditation with Certified in Corporate Governance (CGOV), then progress to Certified Governance Professional (CGOVP) as you accrue more experience.



“As you gain more visibility into processes you can actually streamline them, compress them, make them more efficient.

Once you start to make business processes more efficient from a controls standpoint, you eliminate errors and fraud. You are automatically making businesses run better.”



Sanjay Anand
CEO
SOX Institute, The GRC Group

Certified in Corporate Governance (CGOV) & Certified Governance Professional (CGOVP)

Overview

The GRC Group views certification more holistically than other organisations. Rather than following a typical training-exam-certification route, the CGOVP journey relies on attaining real-life experience and practicing long-term self-teaching after initial CGOV certification.

Certification proves that you understand the components of modern corporate governance and how they interact to provide stakeholder and societal value.

Individual benefits:

- Knowledge of the role and mechanisms of corporate governance and how to measure performance
- Understanding of the separate roles of shareholders, owners and managers in driving effective corporate governance
- Knowledge of how to measure management performance to ensure the expectations of stakeholders, shareholders and society are met
- Access to textbooks and real-life case studies
- Tiered certification dependent on your experience

Benefits to your business:

- Broad, systematic awareness of how a corporate governance model operates
- Opportunity to measure and improve internal governance

- Confidence in ability to meet regulatory requirements, auditor expectations and stakeholder needs

How it works:

- Join the GRC Group as a member once you've gained at least 3 years' professional experience
- Attend 2 days of corporate governance classroom training and complete a detailed case study write-up for CGOV certification
- Accrue a minimum of 1200 hours of GRC-related experience per year for at least 3 years to progress to CGOVP certification
- Maintain certification by maintaining membership and accessing GRC Group resources and learning activities for a minimum of 12 hours per year

Who it's for:

- New governance, risk and compliance professionals seeking to compound and expand their governance knowledge
- Governance managers
- Business leaders looking to systematise, measure and overhaul their current governance initiatives

Price:

Dependent. Contact the GRC Group for more information.

"How can businesses be ethical, environmentally friendly, socially responsible, compliant, while at the same time growing, delivering value, making stakeholders happy? Corporate governance is the key to answering this question."

CGOVP certification with the GRC Group means you've taken corporate governance seriously and are able to help your business hit those big objectives.

For more information about corporate responsibility, particularly in the States, it's worth taking a closer look at the SOX Institute and its work as well."

Kate Armitage
Compliance Director
Qualsys



For more details:

email@grcg.com
+1 212 626 9016

5. Best for lean



Lean techniques are as powerful for quality professionals now as when they were introduced in the mid-1980s.

But a 2018 Qualsys survey found only around a third of quality and GRC professionals are actively applying approaches like Lean Six Sigma in their business.

Six Sigma DMAIC methodology remains a hugely influential model for examining, restructuring and optimising business processes to achieve maximised efficiency and customer satisfaction.

ASQ's Black Belt course gives delegates the knowledge to become Lean Six Sigma experts, able to execute lean tactics, coach and coordinate project teams, and deliver tangible business results.

“Six Sigma is a real laser-focused tool for getting at the root cause.

What’s interesting about the power of Six Sigma is you get the best of both worlds: you get the waste elimination and the cycle time reduction of process flow improvements, and you get the variation reduction and defect elimination.

It’s a powerful, powerful toolkit.”



Chad Smith
Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt
ASQ

Lean Six Sigma Black Belt

Overview

Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certification is one of the highest levels of Six Sigma competence, second only to Master Black Belt (MBB).

Black Belt certification demonstrates your ability to understand and communicate L6S techniques such as DMAIC, and apply a range of process improvement methods to your business operation.

Individual benefits:

- Knowledge of the full gamut of L6S techniques and how they relate to your business operation
- Coaching in the various concepts of L6S and process improvement
- Expert competence in lean methodology, from building a team to integrating Voice of the Customer and mapping and measuring processes
- 19% salary increase (on average) over Green Belt professionals

Benefits to your business:

- Opportunity to examine business processes with a view to optimising them with a tried and tested operational model
- Competence to implement efficient, lean processes that satisfy customers while minimising costs and defects
- Practical application of tools and techniques to measure business performance: SIPOC mapping, MSA graphing, 5 Whys, root cause analysis, and so on

How it works:

- Complete the web-based training modules at your own pace (approx. 136 hours total)
- Mixture of text, video, audio, simulations and quizzes to help engrain learning
- Once you've completed the course, apply for the ASQ Six Sigma Black Belt certification exam

Who it's for:

- Anyone looking to become a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt
- Quality and GRC professionals looking to examine and improve their business processes through a comprehensive model

Price:

ASQ members can complete the course for \$2790 (£2185).

Non-members can complete the course for \$3100 (£2400).

Standard professional ASQ membership costs \$169 (£130) a year.

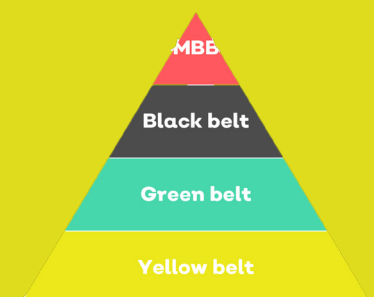
“Lean Six Sigma is a data-driven approach to removing waste and reducing variation and defects.

Understanding the value stream, the process flow, and how non-value-added steps can be eliminated is one of the most valuable contributions a GRC professional can make to a business.

We often hear about quality and GRC teams being overlooked by top management.

Applying lean processes to get results is one of the best ways to get management attention and make your mark.”

**Kate Armitage
Compliance Director
Qualsys**



For more details:

help@asq.org
+1 414 272 857

6. Best for building a quality strategy



The Chartered Quality Institute is the chartered body for quality professionals, which celebrated its 100 birthday in 2019.

The CQI contributes to policy decisions at a national level, and provides a range of training, certification and resources for its members.

Its 40-hour 'Leading Quality Strategy and Planning' course is designed to hone the skills of a quality and GRC leader - from product and service management to deploying teams, policies and procedures for maximum effect.

"Responding to a new normal post-COVID ought to be occupying the minds of the quality profession and business leaders alike.

If we are to assume that there is no going back to normal, business management systems and quality processes cannot expect to continue as before.

Organisations and their ecosystems are likely to change irreversibly from the COVID-19 outbreak, and quality must be leading that change."



Alexander Woods
Policy Manager
CQI

Leading Quality Strategy & Planning

Overview

Product and service portfolio management. Process review. Coaching and support. Risk management.

GRC and quality leaders need all these skills and more. This CQI course is designed to transform GRC professionals into effective strategy builders and executors.

Individual benefits:

- Learn how to manage and combine the various elements of a modern quality strategy
- Understand the context your business operates in, and how to build and lead an effective long-term strategy that matches it
- Learn how to apply SWOT, FMEA, arrow and tree diagrams, interrelationship diagrams and other core strategic tools

Benefits to your business:

- Build a cogent, integrated long-term quality strategy that matches and supports your top-line objectives
- Engage your entire business with quality with effective leadership and coaching
- Deploy your business resources effectively to manage risk, grow competitive advantage, and build a quality-first culture

How it works:

- Complete the 40-hour face-to-face classroom course
- Complete a 2.5-hour multiple-choice exam

Who it's for:

- GRC professionals with managerial, strategic and/or operational responsibilities
- Any GRC professional aspiring to a leadership role
- New quality managers, or those looking to build on existing experience
- GRC and quality leaders looking to build a new long-term strategy

Price:

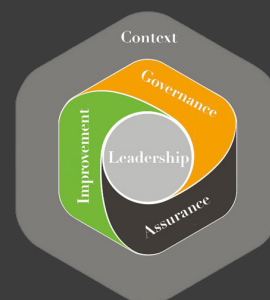
Dependent. Contact the CQI for more information.

“Perhaps more than any other year, 2020 is the year for businesses to take stock and chart a new course for the future after the COVID-19 pandemic.

A well-built and well-led quality strategy is crucial for turning the confusion and chaos of this year around into proactive, positive, long-term quality improvement.

The fact the CQI has dedicated an entire 40-hour course to planning and leading a quality strategy makes it my first pick for this category.”

**Kate Armitage
Compliance Director
Qualsys**



For more details:

training@quality.org
+44 (0)20 7245 8606

7. Best for information security



As the name suggests, IT Governance focuses strictly on helping GRC professionals improve how information is governed and controlled in their business.

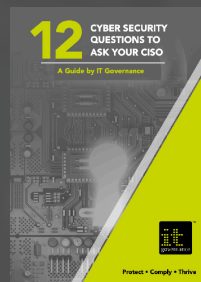
Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) certification is designed to provide a comprehensive and practical competence of the full spectrum of information security, by guiding delegates through all 8 domains of the Common Body of Knowledge (CBK).

The CBK is a comprehensive model of information security developed by the International Information Systems Security Certification Consortium, (ISC)².

“Regulatory pressures, an increasing reliance on technology and big data, and the evolving threat environment place significant obligations on organisations to reduce their cyber risks.

Cyber security affects all companies of all sizes in all sectors. Threats are serious and evolving, and legal and regulatory requirements are growing.

No longer relegated to the desk of the CIO, cyber security has now found its rightful place: front and centre in the boardroom.”



**“12 cyber security questions to ask your CISO”
A guide by IT Governance**

Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) Accelerated

Overview

The (ISC)²'s Common Body of Knowledge can be applied to the entirety of modern information security, from the GDPR to BS 10012 and ISO 27001.

From risk management to asset security and testing, the CISSP course proves you understand and can apply the CBK as a competent, well-rounded information security professional.

Individual benefits:

- Knowledge of all 8 domains of the CBK: security and risk management, asset security, security architecture & engineering, communication & network security, identity & access management (IAM), security assessment and testing, security operations, software development security
- Free copy of the (ISC)² CISSP textbook

Benefits to your business:

- Well-rounded, comprehensive internal knowledge of the information security discipline
- Ability to assess, treat and improve how information is governed and controlled

How it works:

- 5-day training course covering all 8 domains of the CBK, face-to-face or online
- Once complete, apply to take the (ISC)² CISSP exam at an official exam centre
- Complete the 6-hour, 250-question multiple choice and advance innovative question exam with a 70% score or higher to pass
- Once you've accrued at least 5 years of paid work experience in at least 2 of the 8 areas of the CBK, you'll receive your CISSP certification

Who it's for:

- Chief Information Security Officers
- Chief Security Officers
- Senior Security Engineers
- Security Consultants
- Security Managers
- Security Auditors/Analysts
- Security Directors
- Security/Network Architects
- IT Directors/Managers
- Security Systems Engineers

Price:

£1995 + VAT

"Qualsys' journey to ISO 27001 certification with zero non-conformances in 2019 reinforced to me how critical information security is for building trust and assurance for your brand."

IT Governance provides complete focus on this key area of GRC - their CISSP course is perfect for anyone aspiring to a senior security position such as CISO.

Having solid information security credentials on your CV is only going to become more impressive as more and more businesses start to think about their information governance."

**Kate Armitage
Compliance Director
Qualsys**



For more details:

servicecentre@
itgovernance.co.uk
+44 (0)333 800 7000