The Strategic CFO Programme
As the world of work changes rapidly, today’s CFO role is more complex than ever before. The cross-functional nature of the role sees CFOs driving transformation and being more proactive in influencing and leading change across the organisation. They act as catalysts, instilling a financial approach and mindset to not only equip their function with the right tools but collaborate across the business to drive success.

About the Programme

This experiential programme seeks to equip mid-career finance professionals with the skills to contribute at a strategic level, leading across their organisation to drive performance and make value-driven decisions. It is designed to be practical and relevant, and give finance leaders the tools to contribute at C-Suite level.

Participants from across our C-Suite programmes (CFO, CIO, Strategic People and Supply Chain Management) will experience working together across certain combined components of the programme. Together they will develop the strategic, whole-of-business mindset that is the platform for success in C-Suite roles.
Module 1: Enterprise strategy and leadership
- Exploring the challenges of the CFO role and how CFOs add value to the business
- Learning and practising the techniques needed to create an adaptive strategy
- Balancing change, high performance & technical contributions as a leader
- Introducing project work and peer coaching

Module 2: Leading change in complex times
- Understanding your role as a change leader
- Interpreting the effects of power and influence in large scale change initiatives
- Unpacking the CFO’s role in driving efficiency and change across the organisation
- How to gather and prepare your case to move your project work forward

Module 3: Driving value through collaboration and innovation
- Exploring collaboration from a self, team, organisation and system perspective
- Collaborating with internal and external partners
- Navigating growth opportunities through technology and data
- Driving innovation to deliver continued profitability

Module 4: Communicating and influencing at the executive level
- Broadening your influencing approach
- Communicating and persuading at a senior level
- Writing and presenting to the Board
- The role of a CFO in enterprise risk management

Module 5: Roadmap for the future
- Presenting your case for change to an industry panel and receiving real-time feedback
- Navigating the future landscape to understand how you can continue to deliver value as a senior leader.
The experience

An 11-day programme set across five modules held over six months. Modules vary in length from one to three days.

Learning experiences and application:
- Interactive workshops with senior faculty and facilitators
- Work on a project that is of strategic value to your organisation
- Peer coaching between modules to develop skills and reflect on development and learning
- Mentoring support from an experienced leader
- Individual reflection and group collaboration on participative exercises, case studies, pre and post reading material
- Engagement with peers across organisations and functions

Strategic Project
In addition to the modular content and with the support of a mentor and your organisational sponsor, you will identify a project of strategic value to your organisation. This element of the programme aims to build leadership capability across your organisation, particularly thinking strategically, influencing and working successfully across the business.

To ensure your programme learnings are embedded, the strategic project should deliver value to real issues in your organisation. You will present your findings to an executive panel at the end of the programme and receive feedback.

Our co-creators

Business advisory group
Mary-Jane Daly (Non Executive Director)
Anna Davis (CFO Teknique)
Angela Dixon (CFO Synlait Milk)
Roger France (Non Executive Director)
Rob Hamilton (Formerly CFO SkyCity)
Chris Jewell (CFO Genesis Energy)
Stefan Knight (GM Finance Spark)
Rob McDonald (Chairman)
William Meek (CFO Mercury NZ)
Kate Parsons (CFO Rush Digital)
Mandy Tomkins (COO Yellow)

Academic faculty
Jonathan Mason
Adjunct Professor of Management

Brigid Carroll
Professor

Elizabeth George
Professor
Never stop learning

The University of Auckland Graduate School of Management’s portfolio of C-Suite focused programmes are designed for people aspiring to executive or strategic roles. They are a blended mix of on-line, face to face, group and individual learning.

Participants become part of a community of learning professionals who continue to meet, discuss and learn together long after the programme finishes.

Get in touch to discuss your learning and professional development needs.

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