COURSE BROCHURE

Strategic Thinking for Managers

A foundation course that helps managers look beyond today's tasks, see connections and long-range consequences, and link their team's work to the organization's direction.

Code	HT-STR-103
Category	Strategy & Planning
Duration	1 week
Level	Beginner
City	London

Introduction

Most managers are so busy fighting daily fires that thinking beyond next month feels like a luxury, yet the departments that anticipate shifts are the ones that protect their resources and create their own opportunities.

Objectives

- Distinguish operational from strategic thinking in everyday work
- Map the links between a department and the parties that shape it
- Anticipate the long-range and unintended consequences of decisions
- Connect team priorities to the organization's direction and choices
- Present a strategic idea briefly and persuasively

Who should attend

- Newly appointed middle managers
- Supervisors preparing to lead larger departments
- Unit and team heads in government and private organizations
- High-potential staff in leadership development programs

Skills you will develop

- Systems thinking
- Reading near-term trends
- Weighing trade-offs
- Writing strategic proposals

Learning Outcomes

- Draw a connection map of the participant's department showing its main loops of influence
- Analyze a recent decision for its second- and third-order effects
- Set three team priorities explicitly linked to the organization's strategy
- Write a one-page strategic proposal and present it to peers

Course Outline

Day 1: What Strategic Thinking Means

- Strategic and operational thinking in a manager's day

- Habits of strategic thinkers
- Self-assessment of current thinking patterns

Day 2: Seeing the System

- Mapping links between departments, customers and partners
- Feedback loops and unintended consequences
- Second- and third-order effects of decisions

Day 3: Looking Ahead

- Spotting trends and early signals in your field
- What-if questions across different time horizons
- Protecting time for important but non-urgent issues

Day 4: Choices and Trade-offs

- Strategy as deciding what not to do
- Weighing options against organizational priorities
- Connecting the team's work to the organization's strategy

Day 5: Communicating Strategic Ideas

- Framing an idea around value and impact
- Building a one-page strategic proposal
- Applied project: a strategic proposal for a challenge in the participant's department, presented to peers

Training methodology

Connection maps drawn for participants' actual departments
Consequence-tracing exercises on familiar management decisions
Group discussions of trends affecting participants' sectors
Short proposal pitches with structured peer feedback

Certification

Participants receive a Harbor Training Center certificate of attendance on completing the course.

Upcoming dates

City	Dates	Language	Fee
London	21 – 25 June 2027	EN	EUR 5,700

Fees are per participant.

Contact us

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To register and for details, scan the code or visit:

https://harbor4training.com/en/courses/strategic-thinking-managers