

Strategic and Operational Improvement 2 days

Visualise, improve and manage the Value Stream.

Sustainable improvement happens when organisations understand how value flows, remove the barriers that prevent excellent performance and establish the management systems needed to maintain and build on results.

This two-day programme develops the knowledge and leadership capability required to improve end-to-end value streams and create the organisational conditions needed to foster a culture of Lean improvement.

Delegates learn how to use Value Stream Mapping as both an operational and strategic tool to understand current performance, identify barriers to flow and design future-state value streams that deliver better outcomes for customers, employees and the organisation. The programme explores how value stream improvement can be aligned with organisational vision, mission and values, helping leaders focus effort on the improvements that matter most.

The course also examines the leadership practices and Lean Management Systems needed to translate future-state designs into reality and sustain a culture of Lean improvement. Delegates gain a practical framework for understanding how work flows across functions, selecting and prioritising improvement opportunities, and leading lasting organisational change.

What You'll Learn

On completing this programme, you will be able to:

- Explain what Value Stream Mapping is and its role in Lean and transformation
- Apply Value Stream Mapping to engage leaders in transformational, end-to-end change
- Map a current state to understand work systems and barriers to value
- Design a future state that enables excellent performance on all fronts
- Plan and run a Value Stream Mapping activity, including implementation and change management
- Assess Continuous Improvement deployment and maturity across the organisation
- Identify the leadership behaviours that create the right environment for Continuous Improvement
- Strengthen strategic alignment and use it to select improvement priorities

Delivery Format

- Virtual Open Classroom options
- In-company delivery (on-site or virtual)
- Workshop-style sessions blending teaching, discussion, interactive exercises and practice on relevant business situations

Accreditation

- The programme forms part of the Business Black Belt and Lean certification pathways
- The Strategic and Operational Improvement programme is worth 24 CPD points.

Who Should Attend?

- Leaders and managers seeking to improve end-to-end organisational performance through Lean thinking
- Individuals responsible for driving improvement across functions, departments or value streams
- Improvement practitioners and change agents looking to strengthen strategic Value Stream Mapping capability
- Operational leaders wanting to better understand, visualise and improve how work flows across their area
- Sponsors and Champions responsible for selecting, prioritising and governing improvement initiatives
- Professionals involved in strategy deployment, performance management or transformation delivery
- Those seeking to develop a practical, in-demand skill set in Lean leadership, value stream thinking and systems improvement
- Individuals on Lean development pathways (e.g. Lean Master Practitioner or Business Black Belt certification routes)

Why Choose This Course?

This programme develops a practical, Lean-based approach to improving organisational performance through a clear strategic lens.

The emphasis is on building capability to align improvement with organisational priorities, connect work to customer value and establish management systems that sustain performance over time. The programme is designed for leaders and practitioners who need an in-demand skill set to navigate complexity, improve cross-functional performance and make better decisions about where and how to act.

Course Content

Module 1: Value Stream Mapping

Day 1 focuses on visualising and improving end-to-end value streams using Value Stream Mapping as a core Lean tool. Delegates learn how to scope and prepare a value stream analysis, understand current performance, and map how work and information flow across the organisation. The emphasis then shifts to identifying waste and constraints, applying Lean principles to design future-state value streams that improve flow, efficiency and customer outcomes. The day concludes with translating the future state into action, including prioritising improvements, developing implementation plans and applying change management approaches to move from design to delivery.

Day 2: Leading Continuous Improvement

Day 2 focuses on leading Continuous Improvement and establishing a sustainable Lean culture. Delegates explore how leadership, behaviours and organisational environment shape CI effectiveness, alongside practical models for CI deployment and cultural maturity.

The day then shifts to strategic alignment and execution, covering how organisations ensure they are doing the right work through vision, strategy, Hoshin Kanri, and project selection, and doing the work right through appropriate methodologies and the Champion role.

It concludes with Lean Management Systems, including visual management, daily accountability, leader standard work and maturity assessment to embed and sustain performance.

Why Choose Catalyst?

Catalyst delivers results, not just services. We blend consulting, coaching, training, and AI-powered tools into a seamless support system that meets teams where they are, developing capability at every level.

Thousands trust us to support their learning and Continuous Improvement journeys – we've specialised in Lean Six Sigma Training and Consultancy for over 30 years. We're known for sharing our knowledge in an accessible and interactive way. Look no further for relevant, relatable content, built by experts and accredited by the British Quality Foundation and the Lean Competency System (LCS). We are the BQF's primary Lean Six Sigma partner and recommended by the Chartered Quality Institute.