

Foundation

The leading introductory course for PE and VC

Course Brochure

17 - 21 March 2025

**Five-day residential
course in Buckinghamshire**



Overview

The BVCA's flagship Foundation course delivers the vital knowledge and skills you need to excel as a private equity or venture capital fund manager in high performing deal teams. Led by some of the industry's most respected practitioners, you will develop your ability to make more informed investments and manage a portfolio, all whilst building lasting connections with peers.

Topics covered include:

- **NEW** Being an Investor
- **NEW** Investment Committee
- The essentials of thorough due diligence
- Best practice deal structuring and investment returns
- Transaction structuring (early stage, growth capital, MBO)
- How to assess a management team
- Techniques for managing your portfolio
- Exits
- Real case studies to help you put what you've learned into practice
- Group activities to build your network

What will you take away?

- A fundamental understanding of the deal cycle
- Insight from industry experts
- Long-lasting connections with fellow delegates within the industry
- 26 hours CPD accreditation

Audience:

- Junior investment professionals with at least six months experience

* **Dress code:** Smart casual attire

Why attend?



The leading industry-standard

Foundation provides delegates with the fundamentals of private equity, covering the lifecycle of a deal, from due diligence and investment returns, right through to managing the portfolio and exits. **The course is delivered by some of the industry's most successful and experienced practitioners** whose methods and expertise will help you to unlock your true potential.



Interactive learning

Taking place renowned retreat in Buckinghamshire - De Vere Latimer Estate, the course utilises engaging face-to-face learning techniques, role-play, group discussions and case studies to put what you've learned to practice in every session.



Forge connections

Networking is an integral part of the course, **you will build longlasting connections with fellow delegates through the daily dedicated social activities** including networking drinks, dinners, group activities, quizzes as well as the interactive learning sessions and contact time with course directors.

Venue

De Vere Latimer boasts an incredible history with the first mention of a manor house at Latimer recorded as early as 1194 AD. The estate was then passed down through families of English nobility, before becoming a top secret centre for military intelligence during World War II, where it gained its name as one of Britain's most secret homes.

What else to expect?

- 4.5 days of accommodation at a renowned retreat in Buckinghamshire, offering a professional and productive work environment free from distractions
- Featuring 30 acres of grounds, with sweeping views of the Chess Valley
- On-site gym, indoor swimming pool and sauna
- Social and networking activities hosted by the BVCA including a pub quiz and awards night
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided for the duration of the course



Venue



Speakers



Course director: Jon Andrew

Jon Andrew works alongside investment teams to support operational value creation within investee companies. He shares best practice across the portfolio supporting management teams as they develop growth strategies and helps them monitor performance.

After gaining a degree in Molecular Biology & Biochemistry at Durham University, Jon qualified as a chartered accountant with PwC and held roles within the Training, Transaction Services and Consulting teams. During this time, Jon designed and rolled out PwC's inaugural Due Diligence Training Programme across Europe in 1997.

In 2005, Jon joined LDC to focus on performance improvement in its portfolio companies. Over his 15-year private equity career Jon has gained significant experience in a wide range of value creating activities and has particular expertise in driving change through complex integrations, IT implementation programmes, as well as 100-day planning initiatives.

Jon was born in Middlesbrough and because he believes the team chooses you, is a long-suffering Boro fan. He is also an ardent Yorkshire Cricket Club follower and enjoys running and tennis. When not trying to keep in shape, Jon likes to spend time with his three daughters.

Expert speakers include:

- Alistair Brew, [Business Growth Fund](#)
- Tim Clare, [Anthesis Group](#)
- Alex Leigh, [Future Planet Capital](#)
- Neil MacDougall
- Viral Mehta [Oakley Capital](#)
- Isaac Paine, [Macfarlanes LLP](#)
- Robyn Smith, [Livingbridge](#)
- Lizzie Stazicker, [Exponent Private Equity LLP](#)

Schedule

Monday, Day 1

09:30	Course assembles and introductory session Jon Andrew, Course Director
10:00	Industry overview Neil MacDougall <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PE/VC introduction
11:00	Break
11:15	Due diligence Jon Andrew, Course Director <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Growth and key drivers• Focus your diligence• Types of diligence• Case study
13:15	Lunch
14:30	MBOs - Deal structuring and investment returns Viral Mehta, Oakley Capital <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Objectives of structuring• Basic MBO structuring• Risk and return• Alternative capital• Case study
15:00	Break
15:10	Deal structuring and investment returns – continued Viral Mehta, Oakley Capital
16:45	Course closes
19:00	Burger/Pizza Night and Pub Quiz

Schedule

Tuesday, Day 2

09:30 Course resumes

Structuring the transaction – early stage
[Alex Leigh](#), Future Planet Capital

09:30

- Key considerations for early stage investing
- Enhancing upside/ protecting downside
- Funding instruments
- Case studies

11:00 Break

11:15 Structuring the transaction – early stage continued
[Alex Leigh](#), Future Planet Capital

13:00 Lunch

Structuring the transaction – growth capital
[Alistair Brew](#), Business Growth Fund

13:45

- What is growth capital?
- Working with entrepreneurs and owner managers
- Comparison with PE
- Deal pricing

15:15 Break

15:30 Structuring the transaction – growth capital continued
[Alistair Brew](#), Business Growth Fund

17:00 Course closes

19:00 Welcome from the BVCA Chair

19:40 Dinner

Schedule

Wednesday, Day 3

09:30 Course resumes

09:30 Responsible investment
[Lizzie Stazicker](#), Exponent Private Equity LLP

11:00 Break

11:15 ESG/Impact Session
[Tim Clare](#), Anthesis Group

12:15 Managing the portfolio (i)
[Jon Andrew](#), Course Director

- Sources of Shareholder value
- Structure of Portfolio management
- Allocating resources
- Portfolio reporting

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Managing the portfolio (ii)
[Jon Andrew](#), Course Director

14:00

- Board performance
- Non-Executive Directors
- Case study

15:30 Break

15:45 Managing the portfolio (ii) continued
[Jon Andrew](#), Course Director

Wednesday, Day 3

17:00 Break

17:15 Managing the portfolio (ii) continued
[Jon Andrew, Course Director](#)

17:45 Course ends

19:00 Dinner

Schedule

Thursday, Day 4

09:30 Course resumes

Legal Considerations
[Isaac Paine, Macfarlanes LLP](#)

- 09:30
- Key issues in legal agreements
 - Typical issues that arise
 - Case Study

11:15 Break

Restructuring
[Jon Andrew, Course Director](#)

11:30

- Catalysts for restructuring
- Understanding banks
- Security ranking and value breaks
- When cash is constrained...
- Restructuring options and common scenarios

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Restructuring continued
[Jon Andrew, Course Director](#)

15:30 Break

15:45 Evaluating management and executive performance
[Jon Andrew, Course Director](#)

17:30 Course closes

19:00 Dinner and Awards

Schedule

Friday, Day 5

09:15 Course resumes

Exits

[Robyn Smith](#), Livingbridge

- 09:30
- Why are they important?
 - Exit routes and themes
 - The current market – implications

11:30 Course summary and Q&A
[Jon Andrew](#), Course Director

12:00 Course ends

Testimonials and booking

"A fantastic course and one of the best I have attended. Across the board the content was engaging and useful, the speakers were first rate."

Aaron Lawson-Clark, NVM PE LLP

"Really impressed by the course director, Jon, he has some great experience; very passionate about this which very much showed."

Dominika Kowalska, CVC

"Good course with balance of tangible skills to transfer into my day job and expanding horizons in adjacencies, with good social calendar. Thanks a lot for all the organisation, it was perfectly organised and I had a great time while learning a lot."

James Beart, Epiris

Course price and booking

- **Member discounted price:** £6,000 excluding VAT
- **Non-member:** £10,000 excluding VAT

Get in touch

For further information about training,
please contact:



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Enquire now

Contact details

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