

TRACK 1 · TRADECRAFT

Before You Search: Adopting an Investigator's Mindset

Disciplined frameworks for planning investigations before you collect

DURATION

2 days

FORMAT

Scenario Workshop + case studies

SKILL

Beginner

MAX

12 students

COURSE LEAD

Redacted

This foundational training programme teaches professionals how to think systematically about investigations before they begin collecting information. Rather than focusing on tools or technologies, this course establishes the disciplined mental frameworks and planning methodologies that separate competent investigators from those who waste time and resources pursuing wrong leads.

Participants will learn how to structure investigation planning, identify intelligence gaps, design efficient collection strategies, and maintain analytical integrity under pressure. The course covers systematic investigation frameworks, legal and ethical boundaries, collection management, documentation practices, and the cognitive biases that commonly derail investigations.

Throughout the course, participants work through realistic investigative scenarios that require them to develop complete investigation plans, make decisions with incomplete information, and defend their reasoning to peers and instructors. The focus is on practical application: by the end of the course, participants possess frameworks they can immediately apply to their current work.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Corporate intelligence
- Risk management
- Private security/investigators
- Executive protection officers
- Compliance analysts
- Fraud specialists
- Reporters

PRICING

Individual

€1,399 / seat (Ex-VAT)

Custom

Custom pricing on request

Custom covers bespoke in-house delivery for companies and teams, adapted to your threat environment.

→ **Practical component:** Day 1 includes a benchmark exercise and structured debrief. Day 2 participants develop a complete investigation plan for a realistic scenario, present strategies to peers, and receive direct feedback on reasoning and gaps.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Develop systematic approaches to investigation planning using the Intelligence Cycle
- Identify and prioritise intelligence gaps via a Priority Intelligence Requirements (PIR) framework
- Design efficient collection strategies using a structured Collection Planning Matrix
- Apply legal and ethical frameworks to investigative work
- Recognise and mitigate cognitive biases using ACH and the Key Assumptions Check
- Assess source reliability using the Admiralty Code (NATO System)
- Maintain analytical integrity and appropriate confidence levels
- Make sound decisions with incomplete information

SCHEDULE

Day 1: Adopting the Mindset

MORNING SESSION

- Course introduction and objectives
- Decision-making under uncertainty and time pressure
- Basics of the investigative mindset and benchmark exercise

— *Lunch break* —

AFTERNOON SESSION

- Legal, ethical, and operational considerations
- Case study: what separates successful from failed investigations
- Systematic investigation frameworks and structured thinking
- Introduction to investigation planning methodology

Day 2: Planning the Hunt

MORNING SESSION

- Identifying intelligence gaps and collection requirements
- Collection strategy development and prioritisation
- Case studies: intelligence failures and lessons learned (from veterans)
- Source evaluation: the Admiralty Code (reliability, credibility, bias)

— *Lunch break* —

AFTERNOON SESSION

- Structured Analytic Techniques: ACH, Key Assumptions Check
- Cognitive biases: confirmation bias, mirror imaging, groupthink
- Practical exercise: investigation planning scenario, presentation and peer feedback

WHAT YOU TAKE HOME

- Field Dossier — printed handbook of every lesson, framework and case study
- Cheat Sheets — reference cards for core investigative frameworks
- Granted Access — real world practitioners from Birdwatcher Group and its network
- Tradecraft Toolkit — curated tool list with setup notes
- After Care — up to 6 months of direct email access to your course lead

Register for this course now!

Email us at: trainings@birdwatchergroup.com OR fill in the form on our website: www.birdwatchergroup.com/intelligence-nest