



AI IN CORPORATE FINANCE:

FUTURE PROOF YOUR CAREER



IRREPLACEABLE HUMAN TRAITS

1

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Navigating complex stakeholder relationships and managing team dynamics with empathy.

2

HUMAN JUDGEMENT

Making decisions under uncertainty, weighing competing priorities and interpreting nuanced signals like qualitative impacts of decisions.

For example, the computer might suggest firing a staff member to cut costs without considering the broader impact on employee trust, team morale or company culture. This is where emotional intelligence and human judgement plays a critical role in balancing efficiency with ethical considerations.

3

ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

Upholding integrity and trust in sensitive negotiations.

Complying with ethical standards and regulations.

4

STRATEGIC VISION

Seeing beyond data to shape long-term value creation.

Thriving in fast-paced, unpredictable environments.

5

PROFESSIONAL SKEPTICISM

Critically assessing the outputs from AI tools and the sources of information that were used - are they credible, reliable and relevant.

6

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Building human connection to win the trust of clients and target management. Also influencing senior leaders.

TIPS

How not to be replaced by AI, or someone who uses AI better than you...

BUILD YOUR HUMAN NETWORK

Go to meetups and networking opportunities, talk to and connect with investment decision makers (CEOs, investors). Build genuine connections within your industry - people want to work with humans they know, like and trust.

BE PROACTIVE TO STAY RELEVANT

Be curious about new tools and ways to incorporate them into your daily workflows by proactively experimenting and using them daily. Follow tech updates and blogs to know how AI is impacting your industry. Participate in regular training that focuses on integrating AI into your daily work life - do a new AI course every 6-12 months.

EMBRACE CHANGE

Have a growth mindset and be open to learning to use AI to enhance productivity and adapt quickly to new technologies.

EMBRACE THE TECHNOLOGY

View AI as a co-worker or partner, there to collaborate with you and amplify your productivity and insight by automating the tasks that AI does better than you and using AI for deeper and wider analysis. Integrate AI into your deal workflow from target screening, due diligence through to completion and post deal integration.

PRIORITISE HUMAN-INTENSIVE TASKS

Prioritise tasks that require human judgement and creativity and avoid repetitive, simpler tasks that can be done by AI.

LEVERAGE YOUR HUMAN ADVANTAGES

Like emotional intelligence (understanding emotions and human behaviour), building trust, and applying ethical reasoning. AI can handle speed, data, and routine. You can bring emotion, judgment, and creativity to relationships and complex decision making. Also regulatory, geopolitical, and reputational risks require nuanced human judgment beyond algorithms. Use emotional intelligence and trust during negotiations. Be a great storyteller - present numbers in an easy to understand, human way.

REVIEW AI OUTPUT

Always be the human in the loop by using critical oversight and judgement to verify facts and outputs from AI. Help interpret the outputs for clients.

BUILD YOUR HUMAN BRAND

Over-deliver on your human relationship skills by building trust and rapport to make you memorable. Become a thought leader by sharing your original opinion and content on LinkedIn, in articles, in talks. Build your credibility as someone with expert views on a topic.

Chartered accountants are talented, ethical and committed professionals. ICAEW represents more than 210,000 members and students around the world. 98 of the top 100 global brands employ ICAEW Chartered Accountants.*

Founded in 1880, ICAEW has a long history of serving the public interest and we continue to work with governments, regulators and business leaders globally. And, as a world-leading improvement regulator, we supervise and monitor more than 11,000 firms, holding them, and all ICAEW members and students, to the highest standards of professional competency and conduct.

We promote inclusivity, diversity and fairness and we give talented professionals the skills and values they need to build resilient businesses, economies and societies, while ensuring our planet's resources are managed sustainably.

ICAEW is working towards becoming net zero, demonstrating our commitment to tackle climate change and supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goal 13.

ICAEW is a founding member of Chartered Accountants Worldwide (CAW), a global family that connects over 1.8m chartered accountants and students in more than 190 countries. Together, we support, develop and promote the role of chartered accountants as trusted business leaders, difference makers and advisers.

We believe that chartered accountancy can be a force for positive change. By sharing our insight, expertise and understanding we can help to create sustainable economies and a better future for all.

[charteredaccountantsworldwide.com](https://www.charteredaccountantsworldwide.com)
[globalaccountingalliance.com](https://www.globalaccountingalliance.com)

ICAEW

Chartered Accountants' Hall
Moorgate Place
London
EC2R 6EA UK

T +44 (0)20 7920 8100
E generalenquiries@icaew.com
[icaew.com](https://www.icaew.com)



* includes parent companies. Source: ICAEW member data March 2025, Interbrand, Best Global Brands 2024