

# Mapping The Landscape Of Web3 Initiatives Across Global Universities

Prepared in collaboration with



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## **I INTRODUCTION**

Educational Institutions serve as a powerful avenue to engage the upcoming generation, destined to become the leaders of tomorrow. The advancements in the field of Web3 are mirrored in global educational systems, with an increasing number of universities incorporating crypto and blockchain topics into their curricula. This report aims to provide a comprehensive guide to these evolving developments.

## **II RISE OF BLOCKCHAIN CLUBS**

Blockchain clubs have witnessed a global surge, proliferating across esteemed academic institutions and evolving into essential hubs for nurturing blockchain education, research, and innovation. These student-run organizations, situated in universities spanning the United States, Europe, Asia, and other regions, play a pivotal role in cultivating a deeper understanding of blockchain technology and its myriad applications.

The rise of blockchain clubs can be attributed to the increasing recognition of blockchain's transformative potential across industries. As decentralized technologies gain prominence, these clubs act as catalysts for knowledge dissemination, providing platforms for students to explore and engage with the evolving blockchain landscape. Their importance lies in bridging the gap between theoretical understanding and practical application, preparing students to navigate the complexities of the blockchain industry.

These clubs participate in a wide array of activities, ranging from hosting blockchain weeks and events to organizing seminars, workshops, and hackathons. The collaborative efforts within these clubs foster interdisciplinary collaboration, allowing students from diverse backgrounds to contribute to the development and implementation of blockchain solutions. Notably, they serve as invaluable networks for talent, connecting developers, business strategists, and enthusiasts who support each other in navigating the dynamic blockchain space throughout their careers.

The impact of these clubs extends beyond the academic sphere. Through partnerships with venture capital firms, validation on Mainnet blockchains, and securing substantial grants, these clubs demonstrate their commitment to real-world applications. For instance, the Oxford Blockchain Society received a £3 million grant from BitDAO, creating a leading crypto training hub in Europe. This kind of recognition highlights the societal and economic relevance of blockchain clubs in shaping the future of technology.

<b>PROMINENT BLOCKCHAIN CLUBS</b>	
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	
<a href="#"><u>Stanford Blockchain Club</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>MIT Sloan Blockchain Club</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Blockchain At Berkeley</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Princeton Blockchain Club</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Harvard Blockchain</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Yale Blockchain Club</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Blockchain At San Diego</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Oxford Blockchain Society</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Blockchain At Georgia Tech</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Illini Blockchain</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Cornell Blockchain</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Blockchain Columbia</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Oregon Blockchain Group</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Carnegie Mellon Blockchain</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Blockchain At UCLA</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Texas Blockchain</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Blockchain At UCI</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Michigan Blockchain</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Boiler Blockchain (Purdue University)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Penn Blockchain</u></a>
<b>EUROPE</b>	
<a href="#"><u>UZH (University of Zurich) Business Center</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Blockchain Society Imperial College</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>King's of the Block</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Blockchain At LSE (London School of Economics)</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Blockchain Labs Society At University College London (UCL)</u></a>	
<b>ASIA</b>	
<a href="#"><u>Webops and Blockchain Club (IIT Madras)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>IISc Blockchain Club</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Blockchain@NTU</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Blockchain Club (KG Reddy)</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>VIT Blockchain Community</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Blockchain Club (SRM)</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Kharagpur Blockchain Society</u></a>	

A few notable names are highlighted in this list. However, it's essential to recognize that nearly every well-regarded engineering university worldwide

features a club or society dedicated to the exploration of blockchain and its ongoing developments.

### III SUCCESSFUL WEB3 INITIATIVES BY UNIVERSITIES

In the ever-evolving landscape of technology, a global renaissance is underway, led not by corporations or governments, but by the dynamic initiatives emerging from universities worldwide. These initiatives transcend traditional boundaries, constituting accelerators, hackathons, conferences, and research centres dedicated to exploring the vast potential of blockchain technology. Fueling this movement are students and alumni founders collaborating within these programs, propelling groundbreaking ventures that resonate beyond campus borders.

These endeavors collectively signify a transformative force, embodying the collaborative ethos and innovative spirit that propels blockchain technology from theoretical concepts to real-world applications. As we delve into the diverse and impactful initiatives across renowned institutions, it becomes evident that the global academic community is at the forefront of shaping the future of Web3 technologies.

#### ACCELERATORS

**Stanford Blockchain Accelerator:** A venture within the Stanford Blockchain Club, it aids students and alumni founders in developing transformative ventures contributing to blockchain adoption. According to the website, 90% of 36 teams raised >\$2M from top VC funds; they've collectively raised over \$80M.

**UC Berkeley Grant and Xcelerator:** With a blockchain grant program fostering innovation, UC Berkeley's Xcelerator, a collaborative effort, has propelled 85 companies, securing over \$450 million in funding since January 2019.

**Cornell University Blockchain Accelerator Program:** Initiated by Cornell Blockchain, past cohorts gained acceptance into prestigious platforms, collectively securing over \$1.5 million in funding.

**Texas University Incubator & Investment Fund:** TxB Incubator sources entrepreneurs and top-tier student talent, aiming to create a sustainable accelerator. The TxB Investment Fund collaborates with Collab Currency VC to invest in various blockchain opportunities.

## HACKATHONS AND COMPETITIONS:

**University of Pennsylvania (Penn Blockchain):** Conducts events, hackathons, and conferences offering a comprehensive experience for students with industry panels, networking, recruitment, and notable speakers.

**Columbia University (Blockchain@Columbia):** Organizes workshops, grants programs, and events like Ledgerfest, Columbia's annual blockchain conference. LionHack hackathon is one of the largest Web3 hackathons open to university clubs across the country.

**University of Exeter:** Conducts hackathons in partnership with sCrypt and integrates a hackathon project module within their MSc Financial Technology program.

**Tsinghua University:** The Research Center for Blockchain, sponsored by leading entities, focuses on pioneering research and industrial applications. THUBA hosts hackathons, fostering innovation and collaboration.

**Nanyang Technological University (NTU):** Organized a successful inaugural Blockchain Workshop in 2023, attracting scholars, industry experts, and enthusiasts.

**Fudan University:** Conducts week-long hackathons in collaboration with Fudan MBA Blockchain Club and Dr. Liu Xiaohui, focusing on on-site teaching and practical training.

**Indian School of Business Accelerator:** DLabs Incubator at ISB partners with Broadridge India for a global accelerator program in AI, blockchain, and decentralized finance (DeFi).

**Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) Hackathons:** Various IITs, including Kharagpur and Mumbai, collaborate with industry partners to host hackathons focusing on blockchain development and real-world problem-solving.

## **IV PREVALENCE OF BLOCKCHAIN/CRYPTO-RELATED COURSES BY MAJOR UNIVERSITIES**

Universities worldwide are embracing the transformative power of blockchain technology, integrating specialized courses into their academic curricula. In the United States, esteemed institutions like Stanford University, UC Berkeley, Harvard, MIT Sloan, UCLA, and the University of Pennsylvania offer a range of courses covering blockchain foundations, cryptocurrencies, and the future implications of Web 3 technologies.

China, a prominent hub for fintech innovation, sees universities like the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and Tsinghua University leading the way. These institutions incorporate blockchain and cryptocurrency courses into their master's programs, recognizing the importance of cultivating expertise in decentralized technologies. The commitment to blockchain education is not confined to Asia, as demonstrated by the global reach of Columbia University in the United States which seamlessly integrates blockchain-related modules into their MBA and research programs.

In Europe, the University of Stirling, Imperial College Business School, and University College London contribute to the global blockchain education landscape. These institutions offer specialized master's programs and online courses focusing on the foundations and implications of blockchain technology. The expansion of blockchain courses in diverse regions indicates a growing realization among universities of the need to equip students with the knowledge and skills to navigate the decentralized future.

Asia, particularly Singapore and India, showcases a commitment to cultivating blockchain expertise. The National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University in Singapore offer comprehensive courses, including a Master of Science in Digital Financial Technology and a Graduate Program emphasizing blockchain technology alongside other emerging technologies. Meanwhile, in India, VIT, Amity University, and IIT (Nagpur) provide specialized B.Tech programs, MCA degrees, and postgraduate certificate programs, affirming the global trend of universities actively contributing to the development of future blockchain leaders.

## **V WEB3 PROJECTS ASSOCIATIONS WITH UNIVERSITIES**

### **UNIVERSITY AND WEB3 PARTNERSHIPS**

Prominent universities have collaborated with multiple Web3 projects for diverse partnerships. This collaboration between prominent universities and various Web3 projects signifies a mutually beneficial synergy that holds immense potential for the advancement of the Web3 industry.

Universities bring with them a wealth of academic expertise, research capabilities, and a diverse pool of talented students eager to explore emerging technologies. By partnering with Web3 projects, these institutions gain practical insights into real-world applications of blockchain, decentralized finance (DeFi), and other Web3 innovations. Simultaneously, the projects benefit from the intellectual eagerness and innovation fostered within the academic environment. Several noteworthy collaborations have emerged in recent years, few of the include:

Universities	Web3 Partnerships
<b>Cornell Blockchain (Cornell University)</b>	Ava Labs, DYDX, Consensys, and Lido (The students have also developed various small <a href="#">projects</a> under Cornell Blockchain)
<b>UC Berkeley</b>	Algorand Foundation, Acala network, Astar Network, Hashkey, and many more
<b>Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)</b>	<a href="#">Algorand</a> and <a href="#">Crypto.com</a> (MIT researchers also developed the Prism blockchain protocol, designed to scale Bitcoin’s performance while maintaining its full security)
<b>University of Zurich</b>	Three-year partnership with the Swiss-based, Cardano Foundation
<b>University College London</b>	Bitget and <a href="#">Hedera Hashgraph</a>
<b>Saïd Business School</b>	BitDAO (Grant)
<b>Carnegie Mellon University</b>	Algorand Foundation, Hashed, Ripple and many more
<b>The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)</b>	<a href="#">Avalanche Blockchain</a>
<b>Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad</b>	<a href="#">Algorand Foundation</a>

## PROMINENT FOUNDERS AND THEIR UNIVERSITIES

Prominent figures in the Web3 industry have roots in prestigious universities, showcasing the intersection of academic excellence and entrepreneurial spirit. Stanford University has produced notable Web3 founders such as Balaji Srinivasan,



co-founder of Coin Center and former CTO of Coinbase and Roham Gharegozlou, founder and CEO of Dapper Labs.

Harvard University boasts alumni like John Wu, President of Avalanche and Victor Ji, Co-founder of Manta Network. Meanwhile, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has contributed to the Web3 landscape with leaders like Ryan Selkis, founder and CEO of Messari, and Charlie Lee, founder of Litecoin. The University of California, Berkeley, has also played a significant role, with founders like Evan Kuo of Ampleforth and Jeff Feng of Sei Network emerging from its academic ranks.

These founders leverage their educational backgrounds to drive innovation in various sectors of the Web3 space. From blockchain technology to decentralized finance, their diverse skill sets and expertise contribute to the ongoing evolution of the industry.

Additionally, the global reach of Web3 extends to institutions like Tsinghua University, producing founders such as Leon Li of HTX and Dawn Song, founder of Oasis Network. These entrepreneurs bring a unique perspective and contribute to the international collaboration that characterizes the decentralized nature of Web3.

As universities continue to foster a new generation of talent, these connections between academia and industry play a vital role in shaping the future trajectory of the Web3 ecosystem.

## VI PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

Beyond universities, numerous reputable private institutes provide educational platforms for individuals to learn about blockchain and advance in this field. Some of the key initiatives include:

- **YC**  
Y Combinator is an American technology startup accelerator launched in March 2005 which has been used to launch more than 4,000 companies. One of their top companies is Coinbase (a crypto exchange) and they not only offer investment but also offer world-class mentoring and access to their excellent start-up school.
- **Cyberport**  
Cyberport is Hong Kong's digital technology flagship and incubator for entrepreneurship with over 2,000 members including over 900 onsite and close to 1,100 offsite start-ups and technology companies. In 2023, more than 150 Web3 firms have set up operations in Hong Kong's Cyberport and also have access to Cyberport's online academy.

- **India Blockchain Alliance**

India Blockchain Alliance is India's industry network for businesses implementing or evaluating blockchain or distributed ledger technology. Focusing on education, IBA is training 3,900+ professionals and working with 50+ leading multinationals.

- **Blockchain Council**

Blockchain Council offers a range of certifications in Blockchain, AI, and Web3 to suit enthusiasts from all backgrounds. They have partnered with 300+ organizations across the globe including IBM, Microsoft, Pepsi, KPMG, and many more.

- **Central Blockchain Council of America (CBCA)**

CBCA offers Blockchain technology certifications and is also one of the first third-party platform-neutral credentialing and standards bodies.

- **European Blockchain Center**

European Blockchain Center is a leading institution conducting research & education on blockchain-based systems & solutions. It provides various blockchain-related courses, conducts blockchain-focused events, and provides various other blockchain education-related services.

- **Nordic Blockchain Association**

Nordic Blockchain Association is one of the biggest nonprofit blockchain organizations in the Nordics. NBA is based on Scandinavian values of democracy, trust and transparency, as well as adherence to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It conducts various events across the region to create awareness and has partnered with multiple companies across different sectors.

## VII ROLE OF CREATOR ECONOMY IN WEB3 EDUCATION

In recent years, the Content Creator Economy has emerged as a key player in shaping the Web3 education system. Aspiring individuals seeking to delve into the world of cryptocurrency often turn to creator platforms as their first point of contact to gain insights and knowledge. Few of many notable channels and platforms include (in no particular order):

1. **Cointelegraph:** Cointelegraph, a leading crypto news outlet, extends its influence beyond reporting by providing comprehensive educational content on Web3 developments. Their articles and videos offer valuable insights for individuals looking to understand the complexities of the crypto space.
2. **Datadash:** Datadash, renowned for his focus on trading and market trends, has become a prominent educator in the Web3 space. Through his engaging content, he

imparts practical knowledge and analysis, empowering viewers to make informed decisions in the world of cryptocurrency.

3. **[Evan on Tech \(Moralis Academy\)](#)**: Evan on Tech, the creator behind Moralis Academy, is dedicated to making Web3 education accessible. With a focus on blockchain development, Evan's Academy provides tutorials and courses that cater to both beginners and seasoned developers, contributing significantly to the learning ecosystem.
4. **[CoinBureau](#)**: CoinBureau stands out as a content creator offering in-depth analysis and educational content for the crypto community. From project reviews to market insights, CoinBureau provides a wealth of information, aiding users in navigating the complexities of the Web3 landscape.
5. **[BelnCrypto](#)**: BelnCrypto serves as a comprehensive resource for educational content in the crypto space. Through articles, guides, and market analysis, BelnCrypto caters to a diverse audience, providing valuable insights for those seeking to enhance their understanding of Web3 technologies and trends.
6. **[Benjamin Cowen](#)**: Benjamin Cowen, through his YouTube channel, delivers insightful analysis and educational content on cryptocurrency markets. With a focus on data-driven approaches, Cowen's content is valuable for individuals looking to deepen their understanding of market dynamics and trends in the crypto space.
7. **[Coindesk](#)**: Coindesk, a prominent news platform, also provides educational content that spans a wide range of topics within the Web3 ecosystem. From in-depth articles to expert interviews, Coindesk contributes to the broader education for Web3 and crypto enthusiasts.
8. **[Finematics](#)**: Finematics specializes in creating educational content focused on decentralized finance (DeFi) within the Web3 space. Through informative videos and tutorials, Finematics helps users navigate the intricacies of DeFi protocols and concepts, making it an invaluable resource for those exploring this rapidly evolving sector.
9. **[99 Bitcoins](#)**: For crypto enthusiasts embarking on their YouTube journey, 99Bitcoins is an excellent starting point. Renowned for its simplicity and clarity, the platform provides beginner-friendly explanations of all things crypto, making it an ideal resource for those at the inception of their crypto education journey.
10. **[Balaji Srinivasan \(former CTO of Coinbase\)](#)**: As the former CTO of Coinbase and GP at A16z, Balaji Srinivasan extends his influence through insightful articles, sharing the latest crypto trends and news. Additionally, his podcasts offer valuable insights,

providing a comprehensive understanding of the ever-evolving landscape of cryptocurrencies

These are a few of many content creators that play a crucial role in shaping a new generation of informed participants in the cryptocurrency space. Through their diverse range of educational content, these creators empower individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the complexities of the crypto world. From fundamental analysis to technical trading strategies, these platforms cater to a wide spectrum of learning preferences and levels of expertise.

By demystifying the complexities of blockchain technology, market trends, and investment strategies, they contribute to the development of a community that is not only well-versed but also critically engaged in the evolving landscape of Web3. The emphasis on free accessibility further ensures that a broader audience, irrespective of their financial background, can benefit from these resources, fostering a more inclusive and democratized financial ecosystem in the world of cryptocurrencies.

What distinguishes this trend is the democratization of information, with a plethora of articles, threads, and podcasts offering valuable insights that can be accessed for free. This surge in educational content not only benefits beginners but also contributes to the broader Web3 ecosystem by fostering a community of informed participants. As the Content Creator Economy continues to thrive, it is poised to play a central role in shaping the educational landscape of Web3, making learning about cryptocurrencies more accessible, engaging, and dynamic than ever before.

## **VIII SUMMARY**

In recent years, universities worldwide have increasingly recognized the transformative potential of blockchain technology, envisioning its application across various sectors to enhance transparency, efficiency, and security. Given the complex and rapidly evolving nature of blockchain, universities serve as dynamic hubs of innovation and knowledge creation.

Across leading universities in the United States, Europe, Asia, and other regions vibrant blockchain clubs are fostering a community-driven exploration of these innovative domains. Successful Web3 initiatives, including accelerator programs, hackathons, and strategic partnerships, underscore the commitment of academic institutions to driving real-world applications of blockchain technology.

The inclusion of diverse blockchain and crypto-related courses by major universities reflects a concerted effort to equip students with essential skills for

the future. Collaborations between universities and prominent Web3 projects, alumni-founded ventures, and active participation in governance showcase the dynamic involvement of academic communities in shaping the trajectory of blockchain. Private educational initiatives further amplify the impact, extending blockchain education beyond traditional academic boundaries.

Content creators also play a pivotal role in bridging the gap between complex blockchain concepts and a broader audience. Through engaging and accessible content, they contribute to making blockchain education more inclusive and widely accessible. Their role extends beyond traditional academic settings, leveraging online platforms and social media to share valuable insights, tutorials, and real-world applications, thereby encouraging a decentralized and collaborative approach to learning in the Web3 era.