



# CARDANO ACADEMY

**KERI & the Future of Digital Identity**  
Course Overview

# Overview

The internet was built without a native identity layer, forcing us to rely on "bolted-on" solutions for over 30 years. KERI & the Future of Digital Identity is designed to bridge this critical knowledge gap, introducing participants to the emerging paradigm of Autonomic Trust—a model where identity is self-certifying, portable, and mathematically verifiable without intermediaries.

This program empowers enterprise users, decision-makers, and developers to understand the fundamental architecture of cryptographic trust and how the Veridian platform transforms complex protocols into accessible, enterprise-ready tools. By moving away from the centralized failures of PKI and the vendor lock-in of blockchain-based identity, this course provides a path toward identity systems that are secure by design and private by default.

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Course</b>   | <b>KERI &amp; the Future of Digital Identity</b>                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Track</b>    | Technical / Business Strategy                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Format</b>   | Self-paced, On-demand E-learning (Digemy)                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Audience</b> | <b>Primary:</b> Enterprise Decision-Makers (CTOs/CISOs), Developers new to decentralized identity, Compliance & Legal Professionals<br><b>Secondary:</b> Blockchain/Web3 Developers, Academy Alumni |
| <b>Outcome</b>  | Professional foundation in Autonomic Trust and Veridian platform architecture                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Duration</b> | 1 Hour (18 focused units)                                                                                                                                                                           |

## Why This Course Matters

Understanding the shift from "renting" digital identity to "owning" it via **Self-Sovereign Identity (SSI)** is essential for modern enterprise security. Traditional systems are increasingly vulnerable to modern threats; this course provides the strategic rationale for adopting next-generation solutions like KERI that offer quantum-resistant security and low-to-zero transaction costs. By mastering these concepts, organizations can implement legally binding digital signatures and audit-proof chains of authority through global standards like the **vLEI**.

# Key Takeaways

In this program, you will:

- **Differentiate Trust Models:** Clearly distinguish between Administrative (PKI), Algorithmic (Blockchain), and Autonomic (KERI) trust.
- **Understand KERI Architecture:** Comprehend core components such as Autonomic Identifiers (AIDs), Key Event Logs (KELs), and Pre-Rotation.
- **Master Credential Concepts:** Learn how **Authentic Chained Data Containers (ACDCs)** enable verifiable trust hierarchies superior to standard W3C credentials.
- **Apply vLEI Knowledge:** Explain the business value of the verifiable Legal Entity Identifier system as an ISO-standardized implementation of KERI.
- **Evaluate the Veridian Platform:** See how Veridian provides enterprise-ready features like multi-signature governance and delegation.

## Who Is This Program For?

This course is designed for individuals looking to move beyond surface-level identity concepts and delve into the technical mechanics of cryptographic trust. Representative roles include:

- **Enterprise Decision-Makers** looking to evaluate the strategic advantages of KERI over traditional infrastructure.
- **Developers** who are unfamiliar with decentralized identity and want to learn cryptographic fundamentals before implementation.
- **Legal & Compliance Professionals** who want to understand how vLEI provides audit-proof chains of authority.
- **Academy Alumni** who have completed foundational courses and are ready for advanced identity topics.

## Your Learning Journey

During this online journey, you will explore the practical mechanics of **Autonomic Trust** through the **Digemy** e-learning platform. The course features:

- **Micro-Learning:** 18 digestible videos (3-5 minutes each) designed for high engagement.
- **Practical Pedagogy:** A friendly approach using clear analogies to demystify complex cryptography.
- **Interactive Assessments:** Quizzes in each unit to reinforce key concepts.
- **Downloadable Resources:** Access to course notes and diagrams as PDFs for offline reference.

# Program Modules



## Unit 1-5: Foundations

Recap the web's "missing identity layer" and introduce the promise of Self-Sovereign Identity. Compare the "Old Way" (PKI/Ledgers) with the "Veridian Way" (Autonomic Trust).



## Unit 6-8: Credentials & Trust Chains

Dive into ACDCs and credential chaining. Use the vLEI ecosystem as a real-world case study for building verifiable trust hierarchies.



## Unit 9-14: Technical Deep Dive

Explore the core engine of KERI: Key Event Logs (KELs), the security of Pre-Rotation, and the decentralized safety net of Witnesses and Watchers.



## Unit 15-18: Ecosystem & Synthesis

Understand the developer tools (Wallets/Agents), place KERI within the Trust over IP (ToIP) stack, and recap the Veridian advantage.

## Conclusion & Next Steps

Upon completion, you will have a comprehensive understanding of why the future of trust is verifiable. This introductory course serves as the foundation for upcoming **Technical Deep Dives** and **Developer Workshops**, which will provide hands-on code examples and practical implementation training.

# The Cardano Academy Platform Learning Experience

Our programs are designed to meet the needs of individual learning styles while also leveraging the power of expert-verified information. This is achieved through a user-friendly learning platform that enables participants to easily navigate the program content.



## On-demand E-learning:

Learn at your own pace, on your own schedule.



## Gamified Reinforcement:

Engage with the material through quizzes, achievements, and interactive elements that aid retention.



## Mobile Access:

Access your courses anytime, anywhere, on any device.



## Open-Source Materials:

Benefit from our commitment to open-source education.

## Technical and Business Learning Tracks


Cardano Blockchain Certified Associate (CBCA)

08:30 hrs    4 Modules


Intermediate    Technical    Certified




Available in English and Portuguese



Technical  
Staking Rewards and Calculations



Technical  
Aiken: Smart Contracts on Cardano



Business  
Generative AI and Blockchain

Released Fall 2026

Validate your skills and expertise with digital badges

# What Our Learners Say About Our CBCA Certification Course

“ Wow...awesome and interactive lessons. ”

“ The concept was well delivered. ”

“ The course provides me with a deep understanding of hash functions and their critical role in information security. ”

“ I really enjoyed studying the Hard Fork Combinator application. ”

“ I was captivated by the analysis of the story about the Nakamoto coefficient when measuring the decentralization of a blockchain network. ”

“ Very valuable information about Cardano's architecture and operation. ”

“ I fully understand the course and am very excited about these highly technical and in-depth topics... ”

# Your Path to Certification

## 1. Complete the Course & Earn Your Badge



Upon successful completion, the Cardano Foundation grants a **verified digital badge**. This LinkedIn-compliant credential validates your new skills and expertise.

## 2. Advance to a Certified Associate (CBCA)

For learners wishing to advance their knowledge, the next step is the Cardano Blockchain Certified Associate (CBCA) exam. This recognized professional certification validates your technical and strategic blockchain knowledge.



Practice Exam and Completion Badge



Certification: \$99,  
Online, 90 min., 50 Questions



LinkedIn-Compliant  
Credential via Credly

In Partnership with Pearson VUE and Credly

# Meet Your Academic Team and Subject Matter Experts

The Academy team is made of Education, Enterprise, and Technical Talent, with 15-20+ years of experience each. We work closely with our subject matter experts to ensure quality, accuracy and relevance.

## The Academic Team



**Nadia Mannell**  
Director



**Heidi Lynn Staples**  
PhD, Education  
Manager



**John Greene**  
Technical Blockchain  
Writer



**Niklas Göke**  
Business Blockchain  
Writer

# The Subject Matter Experts



**Thomas Mayfield**  
Team Lead -  
Decentralized Trust  
and Identity Solutions



**Michiel Bellen**  
Core Integrations  
Team Lead



**Denicio Bute**  
Community Manager



**Matthias Benkort**  
Technical Director of  
Open Source  
Development



**John Wright**  
Senior Legal Counsel



**Nicolas Cerny**  
Governance Lead



**Fabian Bormann**  
Team Lead -  
Ecosystem  
Engineering

# Trusted by Global Partners



**10,000+** registered learners

# About the Cardano Academy

The Cardano Academy provides **quality-verified, up-to-date blockchain education and enablement**. Our offerings are designed to empower individuals and enterprises with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the evolving world of blockchain.

We provide a range of learning opportunities, from self-paced online courses and corporate masterclasses to diploma programs and professional certifications. Our mission is to foster a global community of educated, capable, and innovative contributors to the Cardano ecosystem.

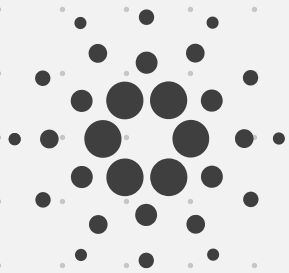
## Ready to Begin?

Unlock the power of Cardano and take the next step in your blockchain education.



Register for Free at:

<https://cardanofoundation.org/academy>



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