



CARDANO ACADEMY

Cardano Governance: Applied
Course Overview

Overview

Cardano's governance system is a bet — that a global, pseudonymous, permissionless community can make coherent decisions about a complex technological and economic system. *Cardano Governance: Applied* is the sequel to the Cardano Academy's *Introduction to Cardano Governance*, and it is where theory becomes practice. Where Part 1 covered CIP-1694, the three governance bodies, and the Voltaire era, Part 2 takes you through the full lifecycle of an on-chain governance action — from initial idea through community discussion to submission, voting, ratification, and enactment — using the Preview testnet and its companion GovTool instance at preview.gov.tools.

The course is structured around a deliberately provocative case study: an Info Action titled “Should Cardano establish a Sovereign Wealth Fund?” (for demonstration purposes only). Over twenty-three compact units, you will configure a Preview wallet, fund it from the faucet, register as a DRep, draft and host proposal metadata, submit the action on-chain, and cast votes — observing how DReps, SPOs, and the Constitutional Committee interact through ratification and enactment. The course is produced against the recently ratified Cardano Constitution v2.4, effective 24 January 2026.

Course	Cardano Governance: Applied — A Practical Guide from Proposal to Enactment
Track	Blockchain Governance (Cardano Academy — sequel to <i>Introduction to Cardano Governance</i>)
Format	Free, self-paced, on-demand e-learning with screen recordings, animations, per-unit quizzes, and bonus podcast interviews
Audience	Ada holders, prospective DReps, and anyone moving from governance theory to hands-on, on-chain participation
Outcome	Practical ability to register as a DRep, draft and submit a governance action, and vote on-chain — ready to apply on mainnet under Constitution v2.4
Duration	Approximately 63 minutes of core video across 23 units, plus quizzes and bonus interview segments

Why This Course Matters

Getting involved in Cardano governance allows individuals and institutions to directly influence protocol updates and treasury spending while helping keep the network secure and decentralized. It is a vital mechanism for exercising digital sovereignty and — following recent upgrades — a necessary step for claiming staking rewards. Yet many ada holders stop at theory. The practical details that matter on mainnet are easy to get wrong: the difference between voting “No,” voting an explicit “Abstain,” and staying silent; the immutability requirements of Article II(6); the guardrails script that gates Parameter Change submissions; and governance action sequencing with its Info Action and Treasury Withdrawal exceptions.

This program closes that gap by having you do everything yourself in a safe environment — the Preview testnet — so you can participate on mainnet with confidence. Its overall goal is to onboard capable, well-prepared participants into Cardano's on-chain governance ecosystem, learners who understand why preparation off-chain determines success on-chain.

Key Takeaways

In this program, you will:

- **Configure a Cardano wallet for the Preview testnet**, obtain test ada from the faucet, and connect a CIP-95 compatible wallet to GovTool.
- **Register as a DRep**, including the 500 tADA refundable deposit, immutable metadata hosting under CIP-100 and CIP-108, and the drepActivity parameter that governs active status.
- **Make an informed delegation choice** between a named DRep, Auto Abstain, and No Confidence.
- **Identify the appropriate governance action type for a given policy question**, and distinguish non-binding Info Actions from binding action types.
- **Draft, immutably host, and submit an Info Action proposal** that meets CIP-108 and the Article II(6) requirements of the Cardano Constitution, including paying the govActionDeposit.
- **Cast a vote with rationale and correctly interpret a live tally** — distinguishing a “No” vote, an explicit “Abstain,” and silence.
- **Trace a governance action through ratification and enactment**, including the two-epoch boundary lag and the guardrails script for Parameter Change submissions.
- **Apply these skills on Cardano mainnet under Constitution v2.4**, with awareness of governance action sequencing and its exceptions.

Who Is This Program For?

This course is designed for individuals who wish to move beyond a surface-level understanding of Cardano governance and delve into the practical mechanics of on-chain participation. Representative roles include:

- **Ada holders** who want their voice heard in protocol and treasury decisions — whether by voting directly or by delegating wisely.
- **Prospective DReps** who are ready to register, publish compliant metadata, and represent delegators on-chain.
- **Prospective proposers** who want to draft, host, and submit a governance action that meets constitutional requirements.
- **Anyone who completed Introduction to Cardano Governance** and is looking to turn that theoretical foundation into hands-on experience. Completing Part 1 first is strongly recommended.
- **Governance-curious builders and community members** interested in how CIP-1694 governance works in practice and in modern tooling such as GovTool.

Your Learning Journey

During this online journey, you will explore the practical mechanics of on-chain governance with GovTool on the Preview testnet, through learning methods designed with you in mind. The course is delivered as free, self-paced, on-demand e-learning, allowing you to learn on the go. Each unit pairs clear narration with animations, live screen recordings of the actual tools, and a short quiz to reinforce what you've learned; bonus podcast interviews with real governance practitioners break up the lifecycle with candid, first-hand experience. A single narrative thread — the Sovereign Wealth Fund Info Action — runs through the entire course, so every skill you practise builds toward one coherent outcome: taking a proposal from idea to enactment, and being ready to do the same on mainnet.

Program Modules



Unit 1: Welcome and Course Overview

Frames the course and its roadmap. Recaps Part 1 foundations — CIP-1694, the three governance bodies, the seven governance action types, the Constitution, and the Voltaire era — and introduces the case study that anchors the whole course: a demonstration Info Action asking “Should Cardano establish a Sovereign Wealth Fund?”



Unit 2-5: Setting Up on the Preview Testnet

Covers why testnets matter for governance practice, configuring a wallet for the Preview network, obtaining test ada from the Cardano Testnets Faucet, and connecting a CIP-95 compatible wallet to GovTool at preview.gov.tools.



Unit 6-8:

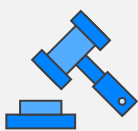
DRep Registration and the GovTool Dashboard

Walks through registering as a DRep, including the 500 tADA refundable deposit and immutable metadata under CIP-100 and CIP-108, plus CIP-105 key derivation. Tours the GovTool dashboard and explains the `drepActivity` protocol parameter — how DRep status expires and how to keep it active.



Unit 9: Understanding Delegation

Steps into the shoes of a regular ada holder. Explores the DRep directory, liquid democracy, and instant redelegation with no lockup, and the choice between delegating to a named DRep, Auto Abstain, and No Confidence — including what the mainnet delegation landscape looks like.



Unit 10-11:

Drafting the Proposal — Off-Chain Preparation

Why preparation off-chain determines success on-chain. Selecting the right governance action type for a policy question, and distinguishing non-binding Info Actions from binding action types.



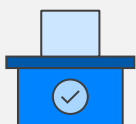
Unit 12-14: Proposal Metadata, Hosting, and Community Discussion

Writing CIP-108 compliant metadata — title, abstract, motivation, and rationale — that meets the Article II(6) requirements of the Cardano Constitution. Hosting metadata immutably with content-addressable storage such as IPFS or Arweave, or a commit-SHA pinned GitHub URL. Best practices for community pre-discussion before submission.



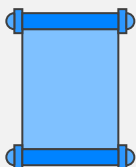
Unit 15: Submitting the Governance Action On-Chain

Submits the Sovereign Wealth Fund Info Action on Preview via GovTool: paying the govActionDeposit, hash anchoring of metadata, and what permissionless submission means in practice.



Unit 16-18: The Voting Process

How DReps, SPOs, and the Constitutional Committee vote and how thresholds are counted. A worked numerical scenario makes the critical distinction between voting “No,” voting an explicit “Abstain,” and staying silent — then learners cast a real vote with rationale and interpret a live tally.



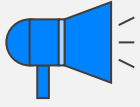
Unit 19-21: Ratification, Enactment, and the Constitution

Traces the action through the epoch-boundary mechanics of ratification and enactment, including the two-epoch lag, the self-executing protocol, governance action sequencing, and the guardrails script that gates Parameter Change submissions. Examines the Constitution's role, including v2.4 changes effective 24 January 2026.



Unit 22-23: From Preview to Mainnet, and Recap

Applies everything to mainnet under Constitution v2.4, with awareness of governance action sequencing and its Info Action / Treasury Withdrawal exceptions, ecosystem tools, and practical tips. Closes with a full recap and next steps.



Bonus Content: Voices from Governance

Podcast-booth interviews with practitioners — Ken Ladd (ACE Alliance), Quirin Schlegel (drep.collective & Mesh), James Dunseith & Sebastian Pabon (Andamio), and Christina Gianelloni (Blink Labs / Pragma) — on what the diagrams leave out: what surprised them, where they got stuck, and the mistakes they'd warn you against.

All content is for educational purposes only and does not constitute financial, legal, or investment advice. The Sovereign Wealth Fund proposal is a case study for demonstration purposes only.

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)

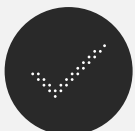
For learners wishing to advance their knowledge, the next step is the Cardano Blockchain Certified Associate (CBCA) exam. This recognized professional certification validates your technical and strategic blockchain knowledge.



Practice Exam and Completion Badge



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



LinkedIn-Compliant
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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



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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

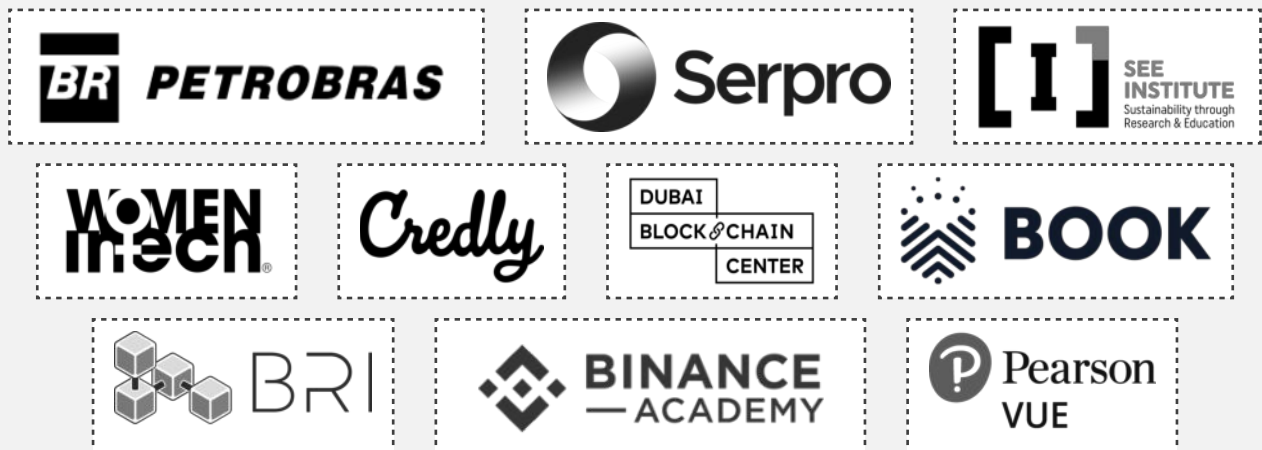


Nicolas Cerny
Governance Lead



Fabian Bormann
Team Lead -
Ecosystem
Engineering

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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?

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