



Press Release

“Bitcoin, Blockchain and Cryptoassets” course goes Open Access, reaching over 1000 students from 66 countries.

Only two weeks after the announcement that the University of Basel Bachelor’s level course is openly available online, it has reached over 1000 registered users from 66 countries.

Basel, June 16, 2021

The University of Basel’s Center for Innovative Finance (CIF) decided to make its introductory Blockchain course open access. Lecture videos, problem sets, slides and end-of-chapter questions are freely available on cryptolectures.io

The University of Basel has been offering Blockchain courses since 2017. From courses on Bitcoin and Public Ledgers or Smart Contracts to seminars diving deeper on more advanced topics: Students have many opportunities to learn the foundations of this promising technology. A highlight is also the annual Blockchain Challenge, where in a hackathon-inspired format, real-world challenges from industry partners are tackled by groups of students. Attracting students also from outside the Faculty of Business and Economics, the courses have received nominations for several teaching awards.

Due to the great demand, not just from our students, but also from the general public, we have decided to make the introductory Bachelor’s level course available in an open access format. The lecture videos are accessible on our [YouTube channel](#), and on a new platform called cryptolectures.io. All lecture slides and additional resources are maintained in an open-source git repository. The goal is to provide anyone who is interested in learning the fundamentals of the topic with quality content, completely free of charge.

At the intersection of economics, computer science and cryptography, the course gives a comprehensive introduction to various aspects of this fascinating topic. As introductory course, it does not require any prior knowledge. The videos are between 15 and 45 minutes in length, each dedicated to a specific topic.



Throughout the curriculum students will be introduced to:

- Relevant general concepts in the fields of money, payments, and cryptography.
- Key components of the Bitcoin Network.
- Properties and conditions of Bitcoin transactions.
- Different open consensus protocols, detailing the incentives and challenges of Bitcoin.
- Economic properties of Bitcoin and similar cryptoassets.
- Advanced topics, such as non-monetary applications, economic scripting, and payment channels.

The course's lecturer, Professor Dr. Fabian Schär is happy with the positive reception and feedback. "The number of course attendees enrolling is a huge motivator for the whole team, that has spent countless hours on getting the course ready for this step", he says. "The pace at which it has spread around the globe has surprised us the most", Prof. Schär mentions further, "This is the beauty of such a format: Education is open to everyone who is interested."

The Center for Innovative Finance (CIF)

The «Center for Innovative Finance» ([CIF](#)) of the University of Basel is dedicated to researching practical issues in the fields of Fintech, Digital Banking and Innovative Finance. Our research focuses on the scientific analysis and practical implementation of blockchain projects, venturing and innovative financial solutions.

With this research focus, the CIF is unique in Switzerland and makes a decisive contribution to the research and application of future-oriented technologies - also in the context of societal consequences. In pursuing these objectives, great importance is attached to comprehensive, interdisciplinary analysis.

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