

## Practical Digital Currencies; Relevance and Application in Real Life (B26)

**Credit weighting:** 2.0 ECTS credits

**Teaching period(s):** 20 July 2026 –24 July 2026 (1 week)

**Level:** Bachelor

**Teaching methods:** Full-time, 55 hours (including self-study, assignments, project work).

**Course leader:** Bernhard van der Biesen MSc

**Lecturer(s):** Bernhard van der Biesen MSc

### Description

Bitcoin has nearly reached \$100,000, the first digital euro stablecoin has been launched. These are all emerging decentralized financial projects, ranging from creative tokenized assets to highly regulated central bank digital currencies (CBDC). Throughout this course, we will explore the appeal of decentralization.

We assume you have no prior knowledge, and from that perspective, we will guide you into the magical world of decentralization. Being the proud winner of the 2022 Dutch Blockchain Awards 2022 “Meaningful Education Award”, we offer the best blockchain education of the Netherlands. During this summer school you will get a crash course into digital currencies.

Students will learn what digital currencies exactly are, how it works and what it could mean to daily life.

Theories this course will be covered.

- Bitcoin serves as a store of value, a cross-border payments mechanism, and in some regions as alternative currency for people without full bank access.
- Tokens enable fractional ownership, platform access, and digital representation of assets such as real estate, art, or governance rights.
- Central bank digital currencies CBDCs provide a government-issued digital alternative to cash, enabling efficient payments, financial inclusion, and programmable money.
- Stablecoins offer price-stable digital money for fast global transfers, trading, and on-chain settlement without cryptocurrency volatility.

Digital currencies stimulate people to create ecosystems without a trusted third party and thus revolutionizes the way organizations work. This summer course provides you with both the theoretical

foundations as well as hands-on experience. Overall, it will be a pleasant mix of understanding the technologies and discuss the new possibilities that it has to offer to the financial sector.

Besides plenary sessions, with a group of three to five students you will have a deep dive into a subject of your own choosing for which you will create your own (financial) ecosystem.

### **Target audience**

This course is intended for students of Finance, ICT, Law, Creative Business, Engineering Management, or of any other background, who are interested in new technologies, but most of all in staying 'up-to-date'.

You need a flexible and inquisitive attitude. Previous knowledge is not required. However, we do aim to use the knowledge you have gained during your own degree programmed.

### **Study load**

Full-time, 50 hour 2 ECTS hours (including self-study, assignments, project work).

### **Course Goals:**

- Possessing knowledge in Bitcoin, tokens, Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs), and stablecoins, including their functions, technical foundations, and roles within modern digital financial ecosystems.
- Design Ecosystems: Build a functional digital currency-based ecosystem addressing a specific challenge.
- Analyze Stakeholder Roles: Understand the interests, roles, and responsibilities of stakeholders in digital currencies projects.

Practical Implementation: Gain hands-on experience in implementing digital currencies solutions through group projects.

## **Practical Digital Currencies; Relevance and Application in Real Life**

**20.07.2026-24.07.2026**

Course Director: ing. Bernhard van der Biessen MSc

E-mail: [summerschool.business@hu.nl](mailto:summerschool.business@hu.nl)

The day to day program is subject to changes depending on the availability of the guest lecturers

**For more information about the Social Programme, please  
visit the [Utrecht Summer School website!](https://www.summerschool.utrecht.nl)**

Saturday and Sunday, 18 and 19 July		
Time	Activity	Description
12:00-18:00	Key pick up	You will find the exact key pick up location in the pre-departure information, which becomes available after you have paid the course fee.

Monday, 20 July		
Time	Activity	Description
9:30-10:00	Welcome and Campus tour	
10:00-12:00	Plenary session - Introduction to digital currencies	Societal implications of changing technology; stakeholders involved in a blockchain solution
12:00-13:00	Lunch*	
13:00-15:00	Group work with coaching	With a group of 3-5 students you will create an ecosystem.

Tuesday, 21 July		
Time	Activity	Description
9:30-12:00	Group work with coaching	ecosystem tool kit: stakeholder management
12:00-13:00	Lunch*	
13:00-15:00	Guest Lecture Tommie van der Bosch Digital assets are here to stay	

Wednesday, 22 July		
Time	Activity	Description
9:30-12:00	Group work with coaching	Token toolkit building
12:00-13:00	Lunch*	
13:00-17:00	Workshop Security Maarten de Borst	<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/maartendeborst/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/maartendeborst/</a>

Thursday, 23 July		
Time	Activity	Description
10:00-14:00	Excursion DNB Guest Lecture Crypto Vera Lubbersen and a commercial bank ( ING/ABN)	<a href="https://www.dnb.nl/en/general-news/news-2022/we-do-not-see-cryptos-as-money/">https://www.dnb.nl/en/general-news/news-2022/we-do-not-see-cryptos-as-money/</a> <a href="https://tokeny.com/success-story-abn-amros-bond-tokenization-on-polygon/">https://tokeny.com/success-story-abn-amros-bond-tokenization-on-polygon/</a>
15:00-XXX	Enjoying Amsterdam	

Friday, 24 July		
Time	Activity	Description
10:00-11:00	Plenary session – The future of digital currencies	
11:00-12:00	Group work with coaching	Preparing Presentations
12:00-13:00	Lunch*	
13:00-14:45	Presentations	With a group of 3-5 students you will present your project.
14:45-16:00	Saying goodbye	Drinks at The Basket

**\*Please note: Students must bring/cover their own lunch**

The lunch times in the programme are subject to change; the indicated times are provided for guidance only.