



# New Credentials. Global Overview

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# 4 Strategic Shifts in Higher Education



## New Credentials

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Shorter, more flexible credentials, from a range of providers are more valued by learners and employers.



## Education Work Nexus

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Higher education, work & skills are increasingly interconnected and becoming integrated.



## Borderless Competition

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New types of competitors and models including PPPs are in play. Value chains are changing.



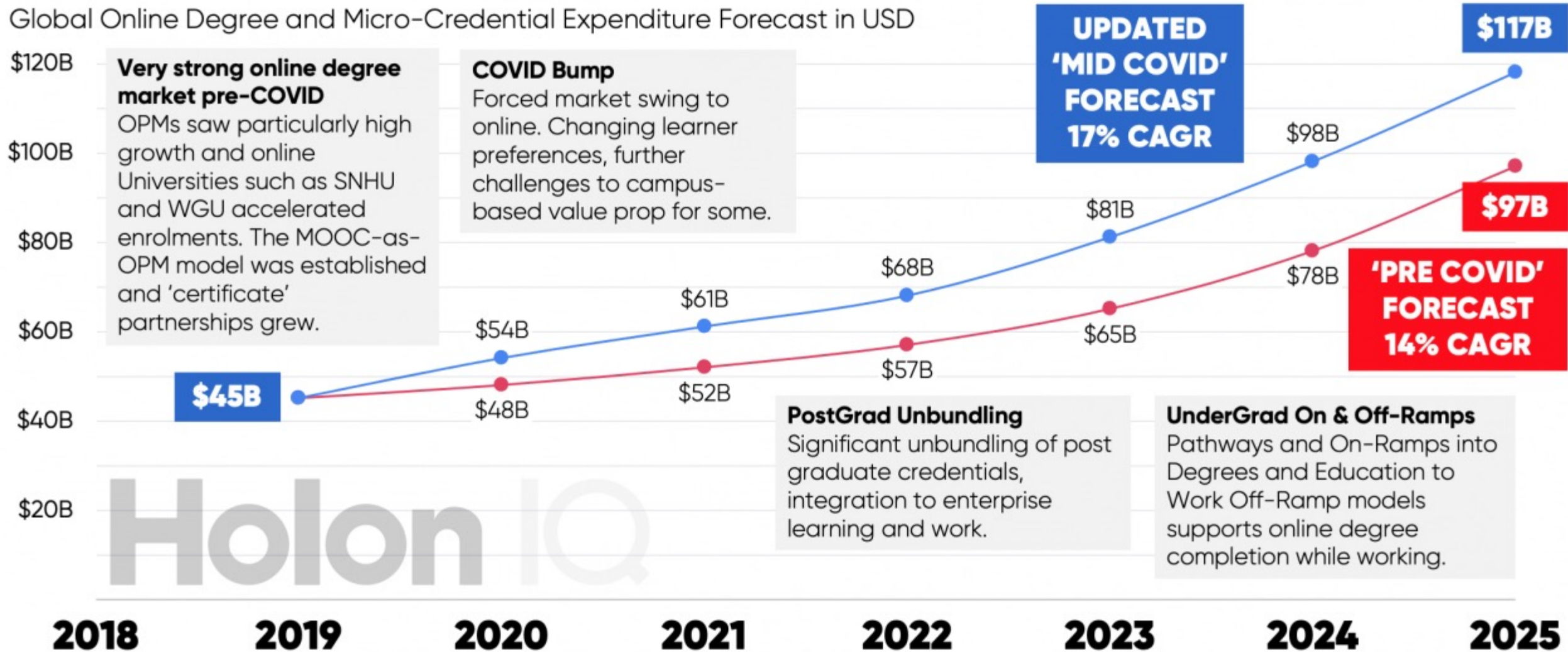
## Omni Channel Learning

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Higher education is moving to omni-channel approaches to learning & the student experience.

# \$117B Online Degree & Micro-Credential Market in 2025

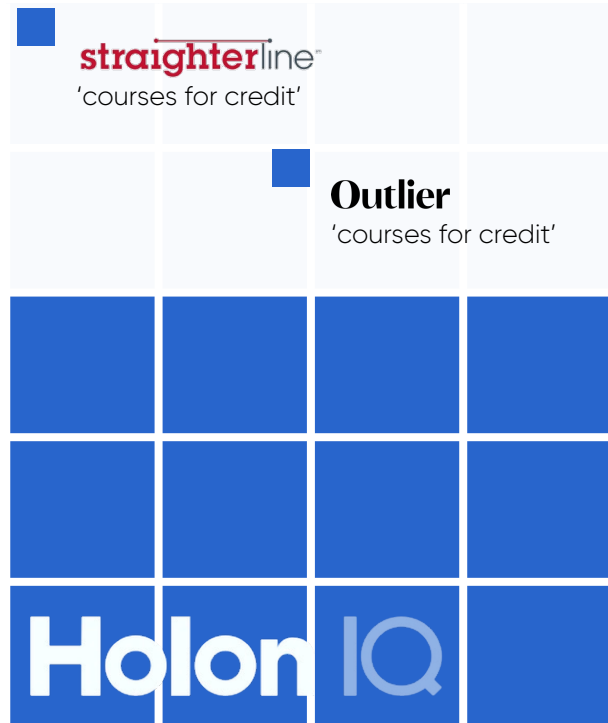
Global Online Degree and Micro-Credential Expenditure Forecast in USD



# 'Micro' and 'Alternative' credentials are evolving pathways, substitutes and alternatives for learners.

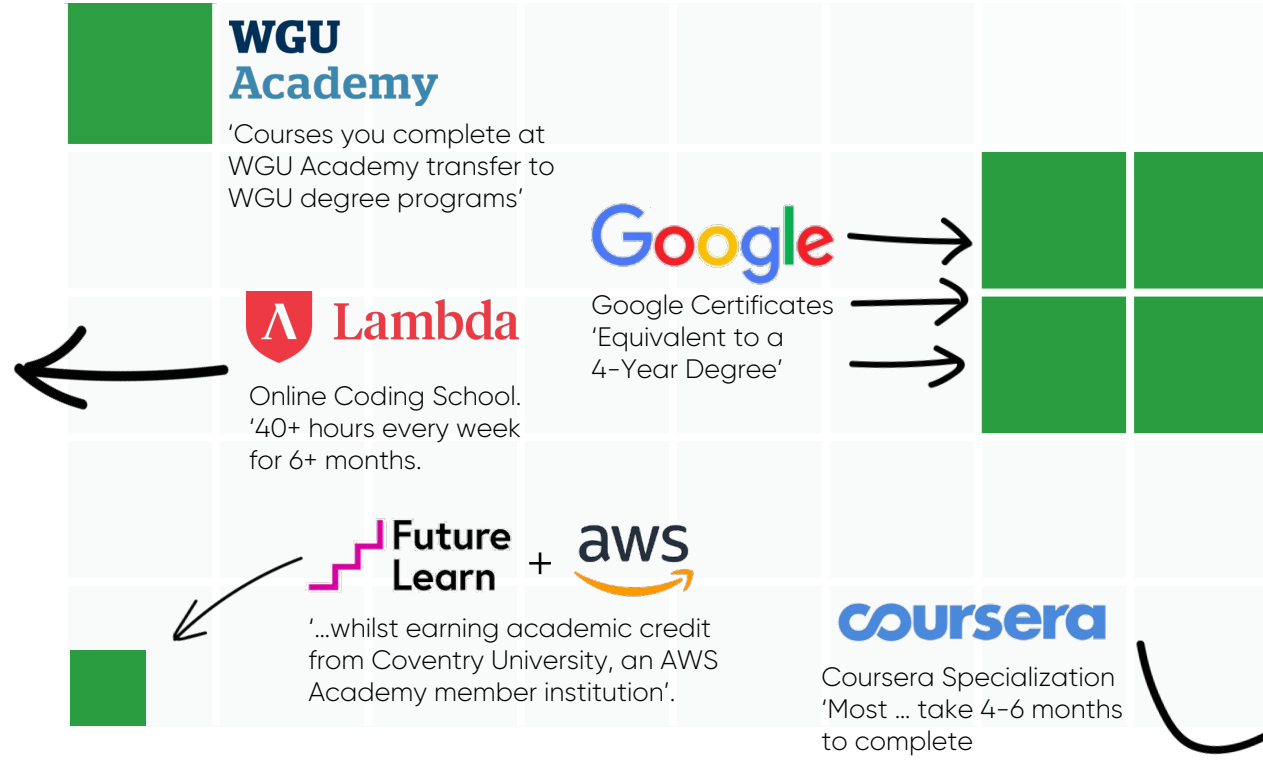
## Associates Degree

60 – 65 credit hours or 20 classes.



## Bachelors Degree. Approx 4000-5000 hours

120 – 130 credit hours or 40 classes. (125 eight-hour days per year)



## Masters Degree

30 to 60 credit hours



# Segmenting the Post Secondary Credential Spectrum

Defining the Global Micro and Alternative Credential Spectrum, beyond government led qualification frameworks, is not straightforward. Different stakeholders bring very different perspectives, and this segmentation is by no means exhaustive.

1-10+ hours Short Courses/Badges	500-1000 hours Bootcamps	200-1000 hours Professional Certifications & Licenses	100-1000 hours Non-University Issued Non-Degree 'Certificates'	100-1000 hours University Issued Non-Degree 'Certificates'	1500-5000 hours Degree Programs/ 'Accredited Programs'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On Demand, Online, Short Courses.</li> <li>Mostly asynchronous video and resources.</li> <li>Generally, no formal assessment.</li> <li>'Peer to Peer' heavy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3-6 month full-time immersive programs.</li> <li>Coding, Cyber, Digital Marketing, PM, UX...</li> <li>Formerly offline, moving online due to COVID. Might go back</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professional certifications and licenses.</li> <li>Generally issued by industry bodies.</li> <li>Dominated by Question Banks, Study Notes and Test Prep.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Self-credentialled', employer or Industry backed, non-accredited programs.</li> <li>Google: 'equivalent to a four-year degree'.</li> <li>Industry backed MOOC Certificates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>University Branded Certificates. Delivered internally or through partners/platforms.</li> <li>Increasingly credit bearing or some form of recognition/ advancement quality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National/Regional Qualification Framework Regulated Programs.</li> <li>Government funding tied to qualification frameworks.</li> </ul>
<b>Examples</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Degreed</li> <li>LinkedIn (Lynda.com)</li> <li>OpenClassrooms</li> <li>Pluralsight</li> <li>Skillshare</li> <li>Udemy</li> </ul>	<b>Examples</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>42</li> <li>General Assembly</li> <li>Lambda School</li> <li>Le Wagon</li> <li>Thinkful</li> <li>Trilogy</li> </ul>	<b>Examples</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AWS, Cisco, SSCP...</li> <li>Bar (Law), CFA (Fin)...</li> <li>CA/CPA/CIA/CERA...</li> <li>NCLEX...</li> <li>PE/FE, PMP, PgMP...</li> <li>USMLE, ABFM...</li> </ul>	<b>Examples</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Google Certificates, Udacity Nano-Degree</li> <li>MOOCs w Industry Partners eg EdX MicroMasters, Coursera 'Specializations'</li> </ul>	<b>Examples</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>eCornell</li> <li>European Micro-credential Framework</li> <li>University Learning Store</li> <li>WGU Academy</li> </ul>	<b>Examples</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TVET Certificates</li> <li>Associate/Bachelor</li> <li>Masters/Doctorate</li> <li>'Sub Bachelor' and 'PG Diploma' in most parts of the world.</li> </ul>

# \$9.9B Micro and Alternative Credential Expenditure

2019 Global Micro and Alternative Credential Market Estimate in USD

Illustrative examples only

## Bootcamps (Offline + Online)



## Online Non-Degree 'Certificates' and Post Secondary Micro-Credentials.



## Professional Certifications



## Online Courses & Badges



B2B and HE  
growing  
very fast

**\$0.9B**

D2C Bootcamps,  
B2B Bootcamps and now  
University Partnership Bootcamps

University & Non-University  
designed & delivered  
'certificates' & micro-credentials

**\$2.3B**

← Excluding Offline  
Executive and  
Continuing Education

Accounts, Cyber, Engineers, Finance,  
Lawyers, Nurses, Physicians, Software  
Developers, Tech/Project Management.

**\$2.9B**

MOOCs, Marketplaces, Coding and  
Creator Courses, Skills Assessments and  
Test Prep for Professional Certifications

Holon IQ

**\$3.8B+**

# Infrastructure for micro-credentials is building.

As demand for more granular, cross sector and cross border recognition of knowledge, experience and qualifications gains momentum in the market, blockchain credentials infrastructure is being built across education and workforce through alliances and networks.

- **USA. Learning Credential Network** – recognizing education, experience and skills
- **American Council on Education** – Blockchain Challenge
- **USA** – State-based micro-credential pilots in some form or another
- **Digital Credentials Consortium** – Global universities collaborating to design an infrastructure for digital credentials of academic achievement.
- **World Economic Forum** – Reskilling Revolution and Global Skills Passport
- **Australia** – National Micro-credentials Framework launched. Embedding into qualifications framework.
- **Singapore My Skills Future Initiative** – SkillsFuture Credit aims to encourage individuals to take ownership of their skills development and lifelong learning. Introduced in 2015, all Singaporeans 25+ received an opening credit of S\$500 and additional top ups. Coordination between government agencies, Education and Workforce
- **Malaysia** – Govt departments (HR & Education) joined forces to deliver 10,000 microcredentials across 24 skill areas, with the objective of 50k training places by December 2022, 3M over 5 years



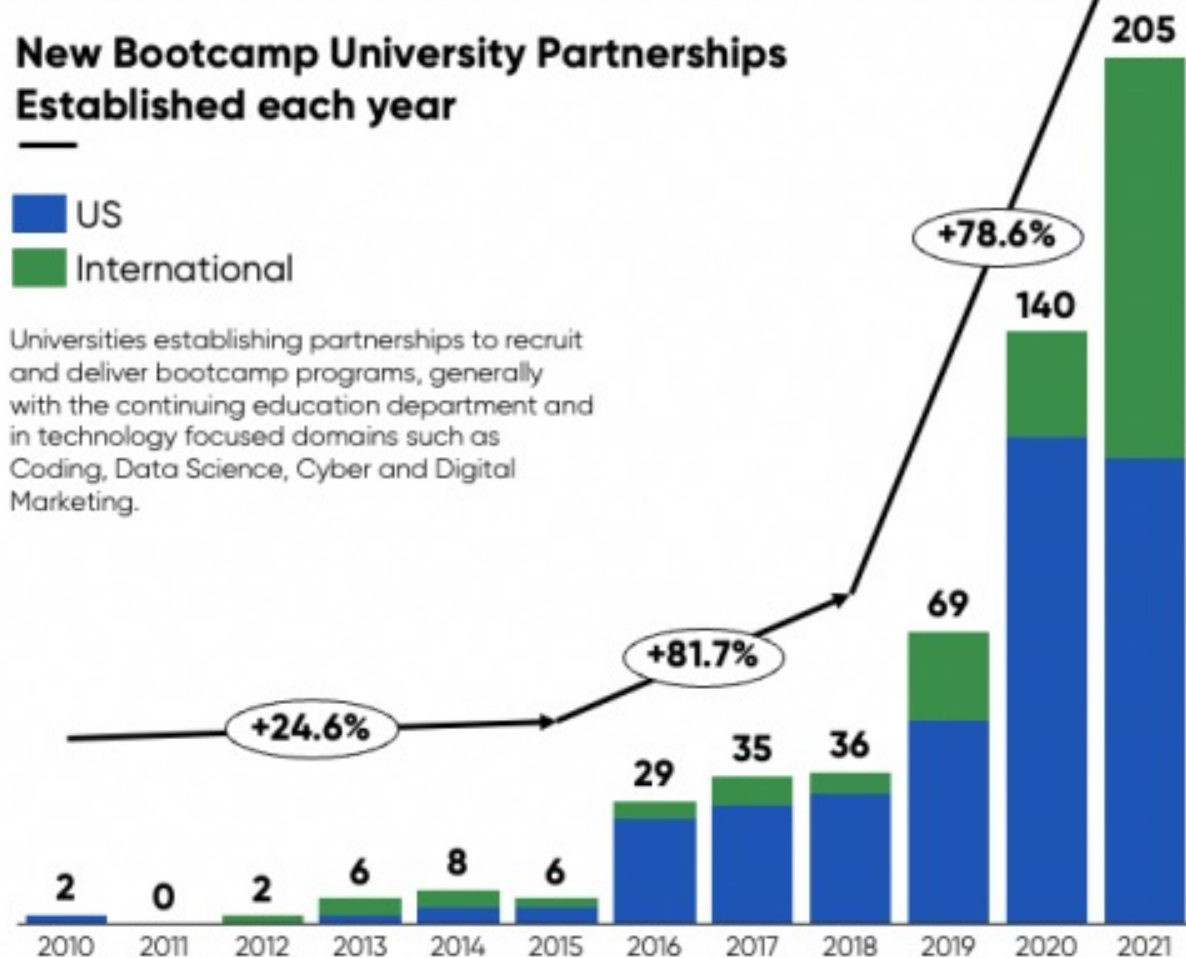
# 538 Universities have established a Bootcamp partnership since 2010. They are growing faster than OPM partnerships in the US and globally.

Number of new Bootcamp partnerships established by Global Universities each year. (2010 –2021).

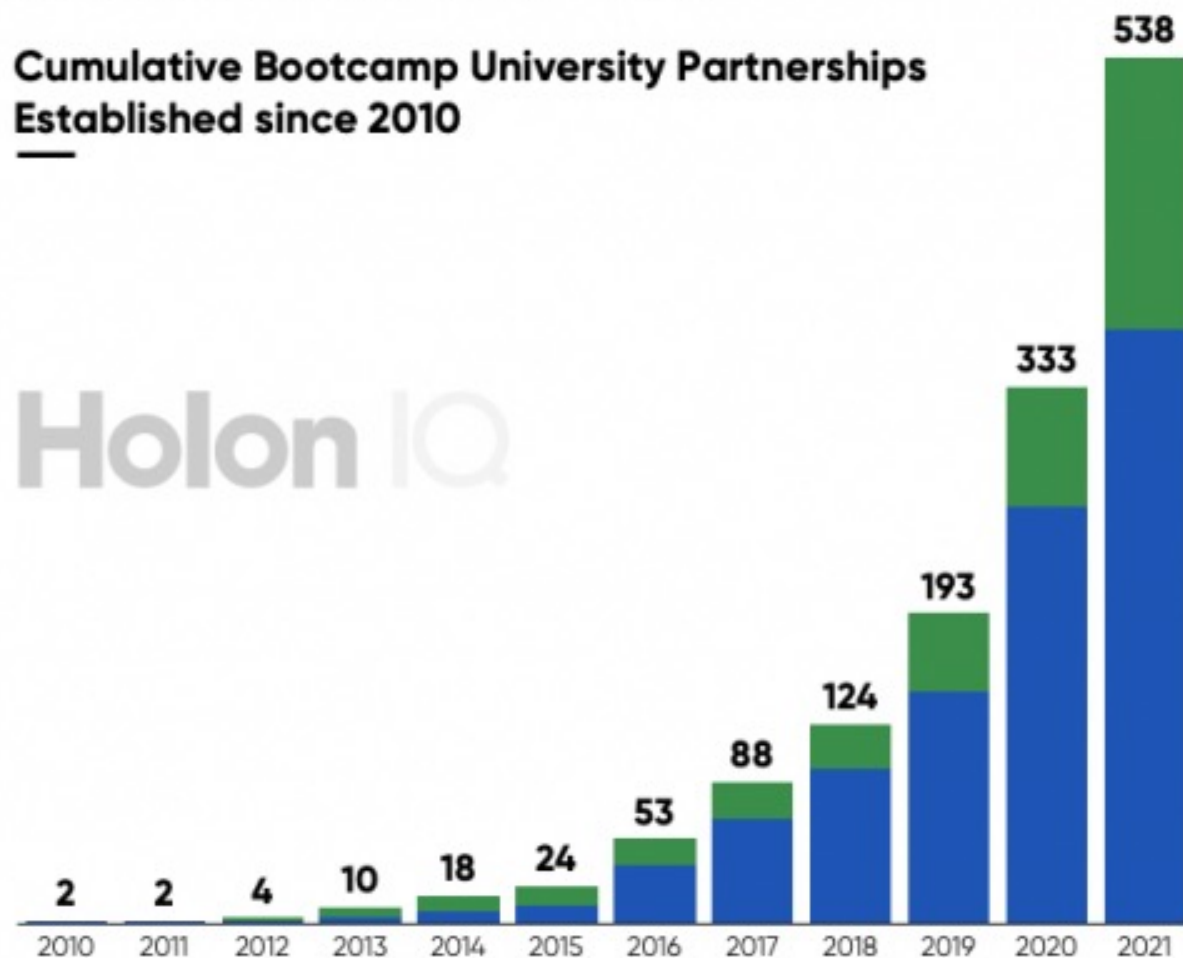
## New Bootcamp University Partnerships Established each year

■ US  
■ International

Universities establishing partnerships to recruit and deliver bootcamp programs, generally with the continuing education department and in technology focused domains such as Coding, Data Science, Cyber and Digital Marketing.



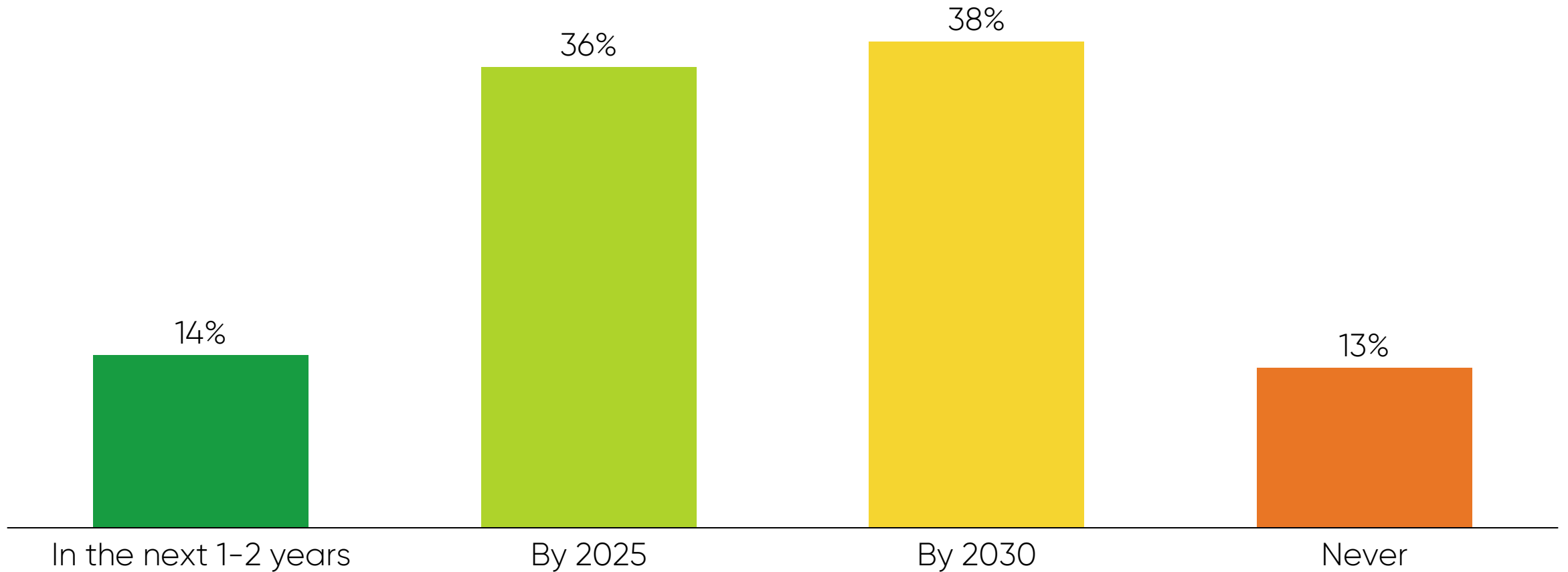
## Cumulative Bootcamp University Partnerships Established since 2010



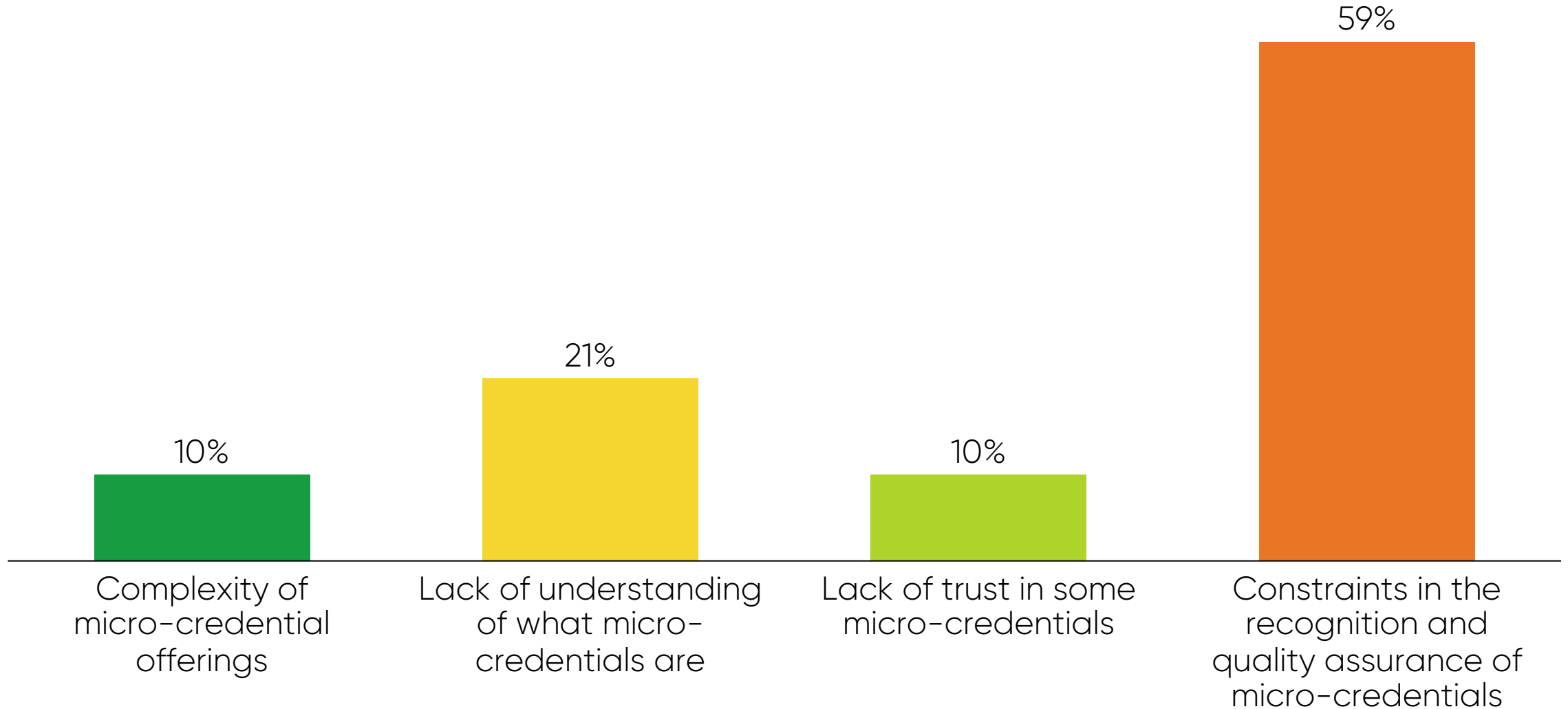


# 2021 Global HE Poll: When will micro-credentials will become integrated into most university offerings?

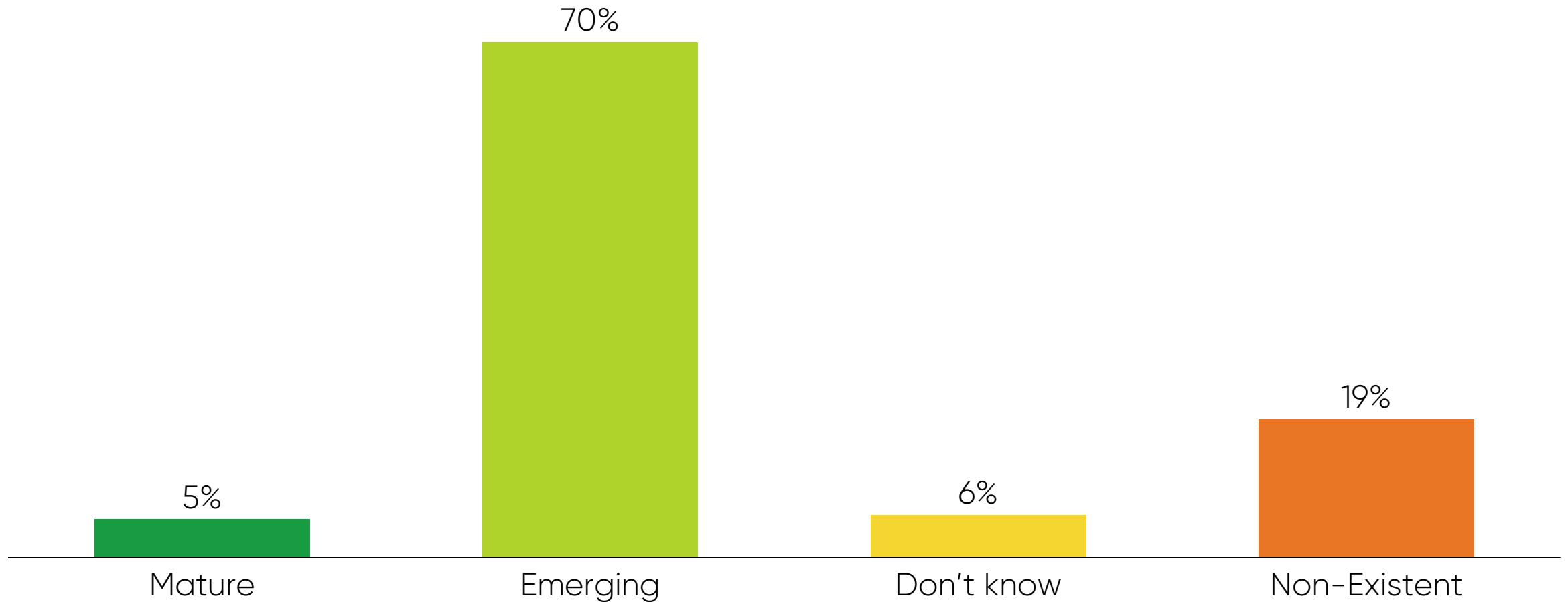
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# 2021 Global HE Poll: Top Barrier to scaled adoption?



# 2021 Global HE Poll: Status of micro-credential adoption?



# Micro-credentials are set to play a critical role in the reshaping post-secondary education landscape.

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Traditional education models may not be suitable for the evolving needs of learners and employers as demand for continuous learning and new skills increases.



While there are no agreed standards or a common framework for recognition of micro-credentials, early attempts are emerging.



Many industry providers, including large employers and global brands are increasingly delivering and endorsing alternative learning options within specific industry verticals.



Governments around the world are starting to build national platforms and create incentives for integration and recognition of micro-credentials across sectors and systems.



However, the micro-credential landscape is vast and complex, with many different providers, approaches and formats.



National Qualifications frameworks are beginning to allow the flexibility to incorporate alternative and micro-credentials.



The lack of digital solutions for the validation, recognition and storage of micro-credentials remains a barrier to adoption at scale.



The re-shaping post-secondary education landscape creates an opportunity for traditional providers to reconsider what, how and for whom they offer education and training.