

Where European venture capital talent studied

Venture capital is the money that funds startups, and a small group of investors decides who gets it. Where those investors studied is rarely measured, yet it matters whether you are choosing where to study, raising capital, or mapping the industry. This ranking traces it: we identify the people working across European VC, find where they studied, and count.

Top 100 of 362 ranked institutions Ranked by **VC professionals** (absolute count) Updated **June 2026** vc-university-ranking.eu

What the ranking shows

European venture capital draws on a remarkably small set of institutions. The ten universities and business schools at the top account for roughly one in six of all education links in the dataset, and the top twenty-five for almost a third. Oxford and Cambridge lead by a clear margin, followed by a tight cluster of elite universities and specialist business schools.

That top tier mixes two kinds of institution. Broad research universities (Oxford, Cambridge, the London School of Economics, Imperial College London, Bocconi, Erasmus Rotterdam) sit alongside dedicated business schools (INSEAD, Copenhagen Business School, London Business School, HEC Paris, ESCP, St. Gallen). The business schools punch well above their size: INSEAD ranks third overall and produces more of Europe's VC professionals at MBA level than any other school.

Geographically, the United Kingdom dominates, with fourteen of the top fifty institutions, ahead of the Netherlands and France. The more striking pattern is what is not European at all: six of the top fifty are US universities, led by Harvard (fourth overall) and Stanford. Because the ranking records where people studied rather than where they now work, it captures a talent pipeline that is partly transatlantic, with many of Europe's investors having passed through American schools, especially for graduate degrees.

The picture also shifts by level. Cambridge leads at both Master's and PhD level, INSEAD overwhelmingly leads the MBA, and Copenhagen Business School and Bocconi top the Bachelor's ranking. There is no single route into the industry, but there are well-worn ones.

How does this line up with where startup founders studied? Set against the Redstone University Startup Index, which counts alumni-founded startups, the two measures broadly agree: across the 273 institutions present in both, the correlation is strong (Pearson 0.78), and Oxford, Cambridge, the London School of Economics, Imperial College London, and HEC Paris rank in the top ten on each. The same elite institutions tend to produce both the founders and the funders. The exceptions are telling. Business and economics schools lean toward producing investors: the Stockholm School of Economics ranks 15th for VC professionals but 177th for startups, a tilt shared by WHU and the Norwegian School of Economics. Large technical and applied universities lean the other way, toward founders: Université Paris-Saclay ranks 9th for alumni-founded startups but 265th for VC professionals, a pattern echoed by Lille and Coventry. Where a school sits on that spectrum hints at whether it feeds the funding side or the founding side of the market.

Why does this matter? Where investors studied is a rarely measured signal of how access to capital is distributed. Alumni ties are associated with a greater chance of investment and larger rounds, so the institutions at the top of this list sit close to the networks that decide which founders get funded. That makes the ranking useful in several directions at once: for students weighing where to study, for founders looking for warm paths to investors, and for anyone examining how concentrated, and how open, European venture capital really is. It is a map of educational footprint built from observed careers, not a measure of teaching quality, and the concentration it reveals is as much an invitation to widen the field as a guide to it.

Overall ranking: top 100

#	UNIVERSITY OR BUSINESS SCHOOL	COUNTRY	VC PROFESSIONALS
1	University of Oxford	United Kingdom	765
2	University of Cambridge	United Kingdom	714
3	INSEAD	France	582
4	Harvard University	United States	569
5	London School of Economics and Political Science	United Kingdom	562
6	Bocconi University	Italy	554
7	Copenhagen Business School	Denmark	516
8	Erasmus University Rotterdam	The Netherlands	460
9	Imperial College London	United Kingdom	458
10	London Business School	United Kingdom	449
11	HEC Paris	France	388
12	University College London	United Kingdom	388
13	ESCP Business School	France	337
14	University of St.Gallen	Switzerland	325
15	Stanford University	United States	306
16	Technical University of Munich	Germany	295
17	Stockholm School of Economics	Sweden	281
18	University of Amsterdam	The Netherlands	268
19	King's College London	United Kingdom	266
20	IESE Business School	Spain	250
21	University of Manchester	United Kingdom	249
22	IE University	Spain	248
23	Vienna University of Economics and Business	Austria	245
24	Esade	Spain	232
25	Columbia University	United States	227
26	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	United States	225
27	ETH Zurich	Switzerland	223
28	Aalto University	Finland	222
29	University of Warwick	United Kingdom	220
30	École Supérieure des Sciences Économiques et Commerciales	France	214
31	Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali Guido Carli	Italy	211
32	University of Edinburgh	United Kingdom	206
33	Delft University of Technology	The Netherlands	203
34	University of Bristol	United Kingdom	203
35	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München	Germany	202
36	Université Paris Dauphine-PSL	France	202
37	University of Nottingham	United Kingdom	192
38	KU Leuven	Belgium	189
39	Lund University	Sweden	187
40	Sapienza University of Rome	Italy	184
41	Stockholm University	Sweden	179
42	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	The Netherlands	178
43	Utrecht University	The Netherlands	177

#	UNIVERSITY OR BUSINESS SCHOOL	COUNTRY	VC PROFESSIONALS
44	University of California, Berkeley	United States	175
45	University of Pennsylvania	United States	174
46	École de management de Lyon	France	174
47	Durham University	United Kingdom	173
48	Maastricht University	The Netherlands	172
49	University of Groningen	The Netherlands	169
50	University of Leeds	United Kingdom	168
51	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	Sweden	164
52	Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris	France	163
53	IT University of Copenhagen	Denmark	162
54	WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management	Germany	162
55	University College Dublin	Ireland	157
56	International Institute for Management Development	Switzerland	155
57	SGH Warsaw School of Economics	Poland	155
58	University of Exeter	United Kingdom	155
59	Uppsala University	Sweden	153
60	Politecnico di Milano	Italy	152
61	Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne	France	151
62	Universidade Católica Portuguesa	Portugal	151
63	Tilburg University	The Netherlands	147
64	NOVA School of Business and Economics	Portugal	145
65	University of Vienna	Austria	145
66	University of Bath	United Kingdom	141
67	BI Norwegian Business School	Norway	139
68	Universitat de Barcelona	Spain	138
69	City St George's, University of London	United Kingdom	137
70	Aarhus University	Denmark	133
71	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	Norway	131
72	University of Birmingham	United Kingdom	130
73	Norwegian School of Economics	Norway	129
74	University of Zurich	Switzerland	128
75	Universidad Pontificia Comillas	Spain	126
76	University of Mannheim	Germany	124
77	University of Reading	United Kingdom	122
78	Université Libre de Bruxelles	Belgium	122
79	Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore	Italy	118
80	Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales du Nord	France	114
81	Trinity College Dublin	Ireland	114
82	University of Helsinki	Finland	111
83	Corvinus University of Budapest	Hungary	108
84	Leiden University	The Netherlands	108
85	New York University	United States	105
86	CEMS - Community of European Management Schools		103
87	University of Bologna	Italy	103

#	UNIVERSITY OR BUSINESS SCHOOL	COUNTRY	VC PROFESSIONALS
88	Newcastle University	United Kingdom	100
89	NEOMA Business School	France	99
90	Nyenrode Business University	The Netherlands	98
91	Queen Mary University of London	United Kingdom	98
92	UCLouvain	Belgium	98
93	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	Spain	98
94	Linköping University	Sweden	97
95	Universidad Complutense de Madrid	Spain	97
96	University of Cologne	Germany	96
97	University of Gothenburg	Sweden	96
98	École Polytechnique	France	96
99	École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne	Switzerland	93
100	Ghent University	Belgium	92

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Method and full interactive ranking (362 institutions): vc-university-ranking.eu. The ranking counts distinct professionals working in European venture capital by the universities and business schools where they studied. Figures reflect publicly available data and may contain individual errors; see the site for the full methodology.