

# Install Python locally

To follow the AI course on your own machine, without relying on Kaggle.

## In one sentence

Install **Anaconda** (which bundles Python + Jupyter + scientific libraries), then **VS Code** as your editor. Everything is free and cross-platform.

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## Step 1 — Anaconda (Python + Jupyter)

1. Go to <https://www.anaconda.com/download>
2. Download the installer for your system (Windows, macOS Intel, macOS Apple Silicon, Linux)
3. Run the installer. On Windows, check **“Add Anaconda to PATH”**.
4. After installation, open a terminal and type:

```
python --version
```

You should see Python 3.12.x or higher.

5. Also check Jupyter:

```
jupyter --version
```

## Step 2 — VS Code

1. Go to <https://code.visualstudio.com/>
2. Download and install VS Code.
3. On first launch, install these extensions (click the square icon in the left sidebar, search and install):
  - **Python** (Microsoft)
  - **Jupyter** (Microsoft)
  - **Pylance** (Microsoft)

## Step 3 — Test

1. Create a `ai-course` folder somewhere on your disk.
2. In VS Code: **File** → **Open Folder** → choose `ai-course`.
3. Create a new file `test.ipynb` (right-click in explorer → New file, with `.ipynb` extension).
4. VS Code prompts you to pick a **Python kernel**: choose the Anaconda environment (`base (Python 3.12.x)`).
5. In the first cell, type:

```
import numpy as np, pandas as pd, matplotlib.pyplot as plt
print("OK", np.__version__)
```

Run the cell (**Shift + Enter**). You should see `OK 1.x.x`.

## Step 4 — Get the course notebooks

Three options:

**A. Download all notebooks at once:** from the Resources page on the site, click “Jupyter Notebooks”, unzip the archive into your `ai-course/` folder.

**B. Fork from Kaggle:** on a Kaggle kernel page, click **Copy & Edit**, then use the **Download notebook** button (top right).

**C. Clone the Git repo** (if you know Git): coming soon.

## Step 5 — Get the datasets

The datasets used (titanic\_mini, abalone\_mini, cancer\_mini, etc.) are on Kaggle: <https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/pyim59/mini-datasets>

On Kaggle, click **Download** (top right) — you get a .zip to extract into your notebooks folder. **Important:** in the notebooks, the path `/kaggle/input/datasets/pyim59/mini-datasets/` needs to be replaced with a local relative path (e.g., `./mini-datasets/`).

## Common issues

**python opens Microsoft Store on Windows:** you didn't tick "Add to PATH" during install. Uninstall Anaconda and reinstall with the box ticked.

**Jupyter won't open in VS Code:** make sure the Jupyter extension is enabled and you've selected a valid Python kernel (click in the top right of the notebook).

**ModuleNotFoundError: pandas (or other):** open a Terminal and type `pip install pandas` (replace with the missing module name). Anaconda usually has everything pre-installed, but for course-specific modules (lightgbm, xgboost, torch), you may need to install them yourself.

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