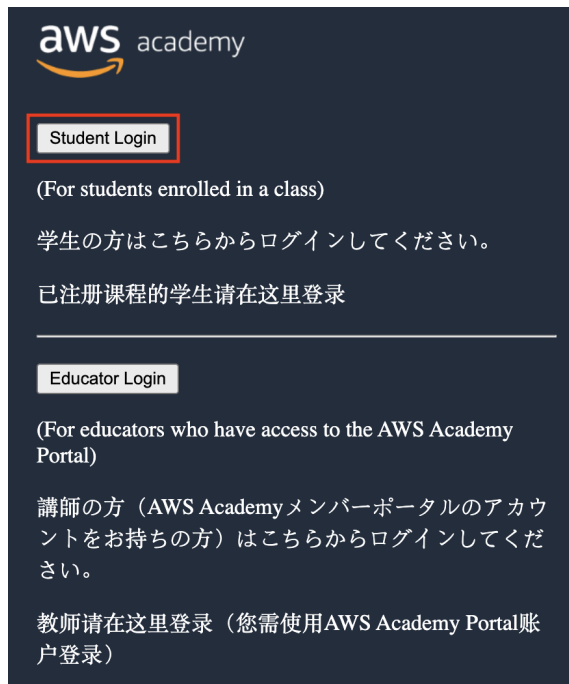# ECS 489: Winter 2026
Using AWS Academy Learner Lab

Wonbin Jin, Madison Heyer, Arnav Shah, Lance Ying (Student Instructors)
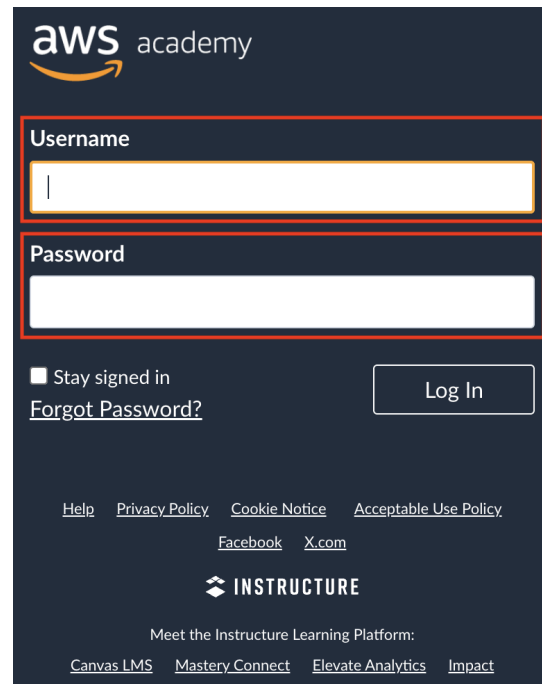
Muhammad Shahbaz (Instructor)

1. Introduction

This guide explains how to use **AWS Academy Learner Lab (AWS Lab)** to complete the lab assignments in this course. You will primarily use AWS Lab to access various Amazon Web Services (AWS) as part of different assignments.

2. Using AWS Academy Learner Lab

Step 1: You should have received an email invitation with instructions for setting up your AWS Lab account. After setup, go to https://www.awsacademy.com/vforcesite/LMS_Login, choose Student Login, and enter your email and password to sign in.
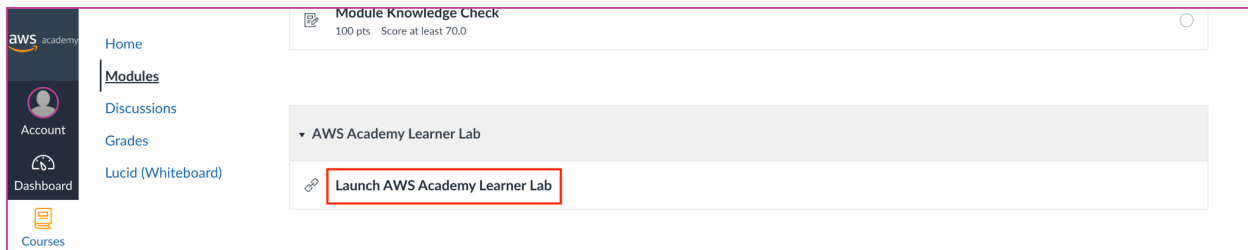
Step 2: After logging in, you will see the AWS Lab dashboard. Click on **AWS Academy Learner Lab [151633]** from the available courses.

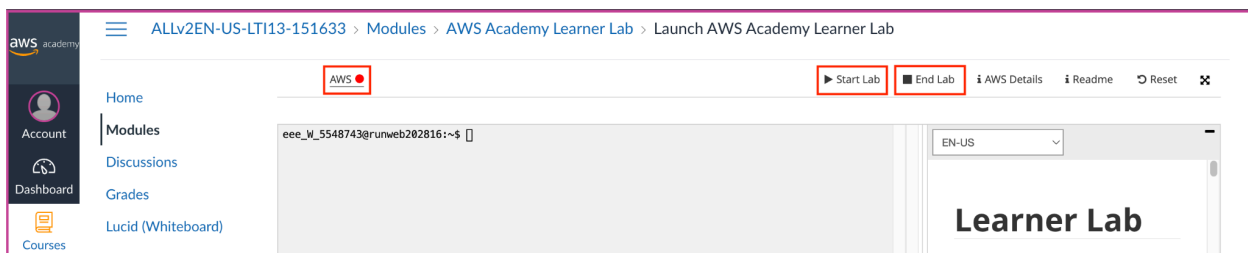| Course ▾	Nickname ⇕	Course Code ⇕
AWS Academy Learner Lab [151633]	EECS489-WN26	ALLv2EN-US-LTI13-151633

Step 3: This takes you to the course homepage. Click on **Modules**.
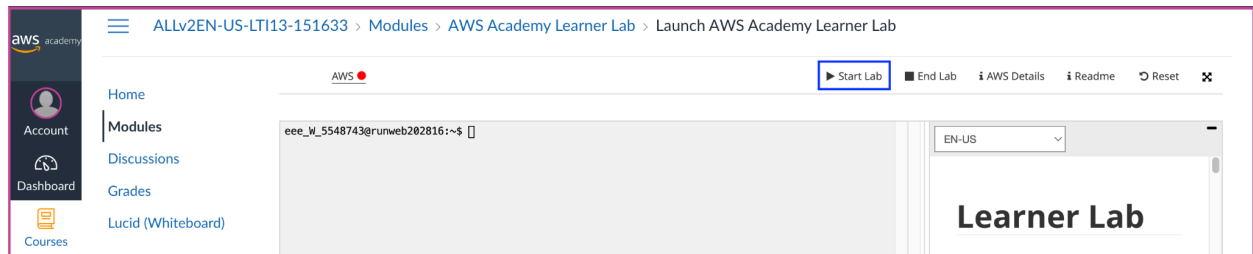


Step 4: Select **Launch AWS Academy Learner Lab**.

Step 5: This is your lab interface. Key controls are marked with red boxes. The Readme section provides helpful documentation for using the lab. (Don't forget to accept the Terms of Use when accessing the interface for the first time.)
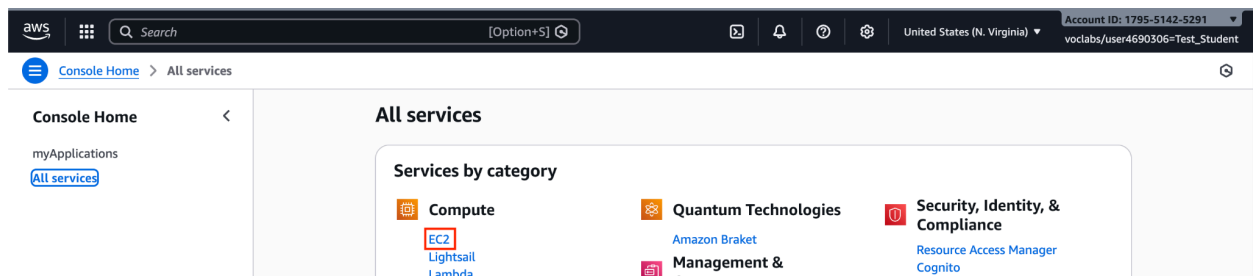
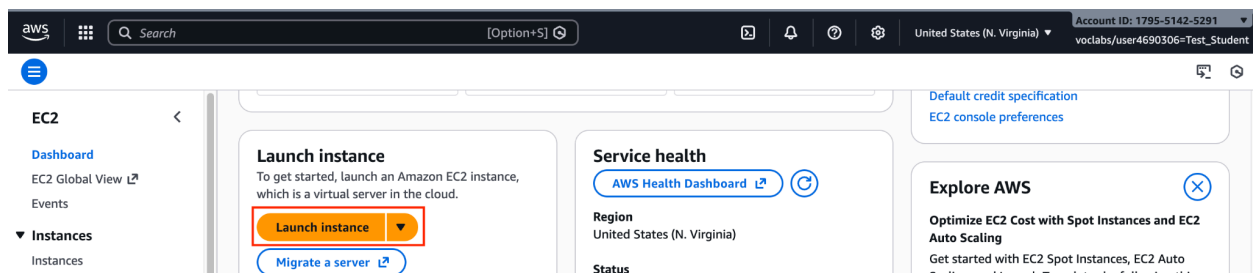**Step 6:** Click **Start Lab** to begin.

Step 7: Once the circle next to AWS turns **green**, click on AWS. (It may take some time to come up.)
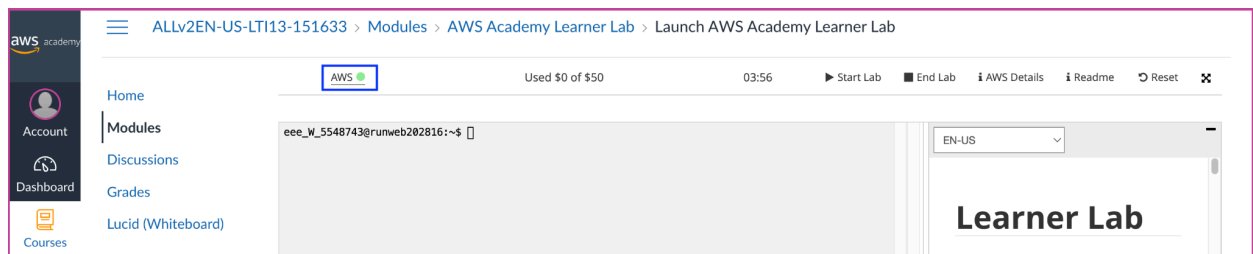
Step 8: A new browser tab will open to the AWS Console Home. Navigate to **All Services** by clicking the Hamburger Menu (☰), and select the **EC2** service under **Compute**.

Step 9: Press the orange **Launch Instance** button.

Step 10: To start the VM creation process, first select an **Amazon Machine Image (AMI)**. Choose **Ubuntu 22.04 "Free tier eligible."** (Select **Confirm changes** if a pop-up appears.)

Step 11: Choose the instance type. Select **t3.medium**.

Step 12: In the Key pair (login) section, click **Create a key pair** if you don't already have one.
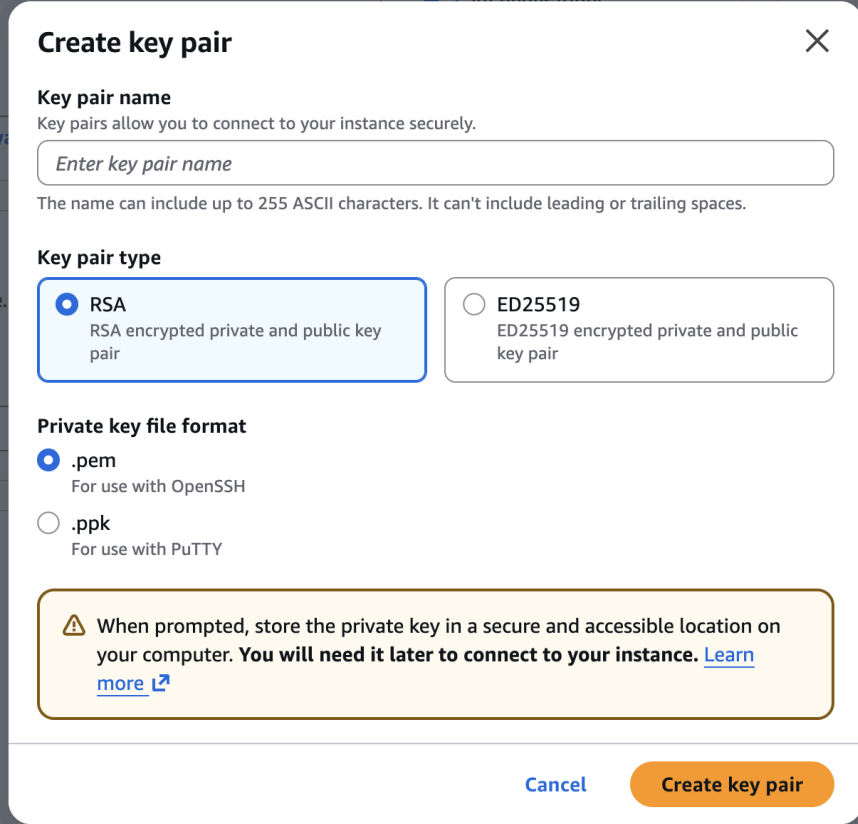
Step 13: In the pop-up, enter a name for your key pair and click **Create key pair**. This downloads the .pem key file (e.g., [Key pair name].pem) to your computer. **Important:** Do not lose or damage this file. Without it, you cannot connect to your virtual machine, and it cannot be downloaded again.

Step 14: Under the Summary section, click **Launch Instance** to create your virtual machine.

Step 15: On the **Launch Status** page, click the instance identifier.

Step 16: You'll now see key information about your EC2 instance, such as instance ID, public IPv4 address, and DNS. Click **Connect**.

Step 17: Under the **SSH client** tab, follow the listed steps to connect to your instance. Copy the provided **ssh** command and paste it into your terminal. (Remember to set the security permissions of your **.pem** file by running "**chmod 600 <key>.pem**".)

Step 18: 🎉You're now connected to your remote virtual machine and ready to use it (responsibly)!


```
● ● ●          ubuntu@ip-172-31-66-71: ~                          ⌥⌘1

 System load:  0.0              Processes:              106
 Usage of /:   23.4% of 7.57GB  Users logged in:        0
 Memory usage: 10%              IPv4 address for ens5: 172.31.66.71
 Swap usage:   0%


Expanded Security Maintenance for Applications is not enabled.

0 updates can be applied immediately.

Enable ESM Apps to receive additional future security updates.
See https://ubuntu.com/esm or run: sudo pro status


The list of available updates is more than a week old.
To check for new updates run: sudo apt update
New release '24.04.3 LTS' available.
Run 'do-release-upgrade' to upgrade to it.


Last login: Sun Jan  4 10:15:53 2026 from 99.19.68.14
To run a command as administrator (user "root"), use "sudo <command>".
See "man sudo_root" for details.

ubuntu@ip-172-31-66-71:~$ █
```
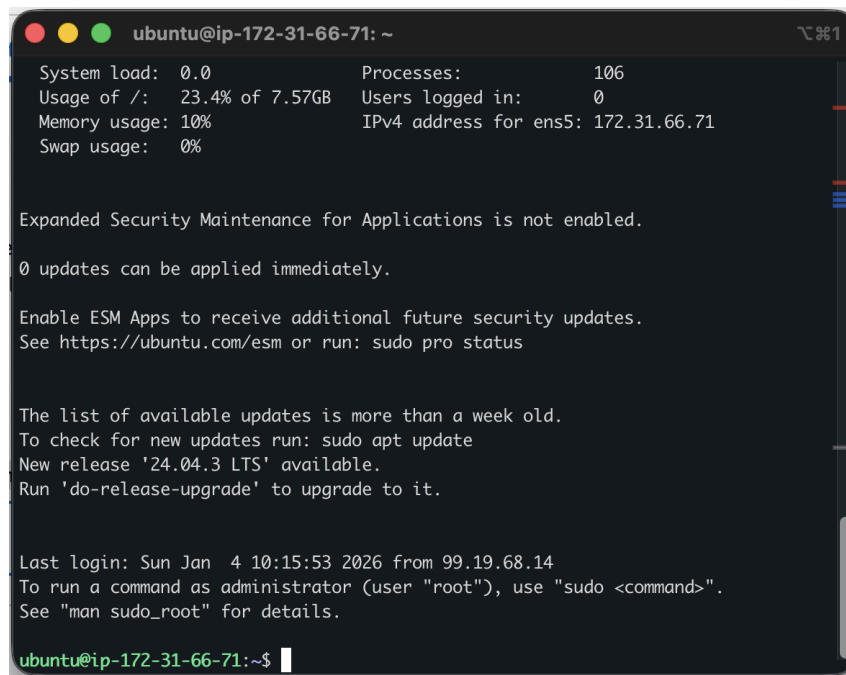
Step 19: Always remember to end your lab session when you're done. Use the **End Lab** button in the AWS Lab console. This shuts down all AWS services (including VMs) used in the lab. When you restart the lab, AWS will bring the services back up, but your VM might receive new network information (like IPv4 or DNS). Your key pairs will remain the same. To reconnect, just follow Steps 16 and 17 again.