# Miniforge + Conda Environments on Windows: Student Setup Guide

## Step 1: Download and Install Miniforge

1. Go to: https://github.com/conda-forge/miniforge
2. Under 'Assets', download: Miniforge3-Windows-x86_64.exe
3. Run the installer:
   - Use default settings
   - Check 'Add Miniforge to PATH' or ensure it's available via terminal
   - Choose 'Register Anaconda Prompt as default' if available

## Step 2: Open the Miniforge Prompt

1. Open the Start Menu
2. Search for and open: 'Miniforge Prompt'
   (Not the regular Command Prompt)

## Step 3: Create a New Conda Environment

1. Use the following command to create an environment named 'research':
   conda create -n research python=3.11
2. When prompted, press 'y' to confirm installation
3. Activate the environment:
   conda activate research

## Step 4: Install Packages

1. Once the environment is active, install packages as needed:
   conda install numpy pandas jupyterlab
   conda install -c conda-forge matplotlib scipy
2. Or install pip-only packages:
   pip install seaborn

## Step 5: Launch JupyterLab (Optional)

1. While in the environment:
   jupyter lab
2. This will open JupyterLab in your browser

## Step 6: Managing Environments

• List all environments:
   conda env list
• Remove an environment:
   conda env remove -n research

## Troubleshooting Tips

• If 'conda' is not recognized, open the Miniforge Prompt or add Miniforge to your system PATH.
• To update conda itself:
   conda update conda
• To deactivate your environment:
   conda deactivate