

L^AT_EX Toolchain Install Instructions

Summer Term 20/21

To work with the HTBLA Leonding Diplomarbeit L^AT_EX Template you need several tools installed. Follow these instructions to install all you need in the correct order. The main focus is on Windows, but Linux¹ alternatives (where applicable) are provided as well.

For students who prefer watching a video instead the whole [installation process has also been recorded and is available here](#).

1 Necessary Tools

1. Install Perl
 - Windows Suggestion: [Strawberry Perl](#)
2. Install L^AT_EX
 - Windows Suggestion: [MiK_TE_X](#)
 - Linux Suggestion: [T_EX Live](#)
3. Install VS Code²
 - (a) [Download](#) and install
 - (b) Install [L^AT_EX Workshop Extension](#)
4. Install Git
 - [Windows Download](#)
 - For beginners: [a nice introduction](#)

2 Building the Template

First, clone the [thesis template](#) in the directory you wish to use for your thesis. Then *delete* the `.git` folder and create your own repository (`git init`). Adapt `.gitignore` to your needs (e.g. different editor, not checking in PDFs,...) and perform an initial `git add` and `git commit`.

Open the `thesis.tex` file in VS Code. The L^AT_EX Workshop Extension will start automatically after a few seconds. In its menu³ hit the **Build L^AT_EX project** option. The system now begins building the document which will – for the first time – take very, very long (minutes), because MiK_TE_X is downloading all required packages in the background⁴. You may even see a ‘recipe failed’ message due to timeouts. Don’t worry, eventually it will work and be much faster.

Once the PDF is building correctly on your machine (check against the version in the template repository) I strongly suggest committing again and then creating and pushing to a GitHub repository – you *will* be collaborating with your team on the thesis after all (also: backup!).

3 Optional Tool

I recommend installing and using the [Mendeley Desktop Client](#) to manage your literature references, create the `bibtex` file you’ll need and to produce the proper L^AT_EX citation commands. You will need an [Elsevier](#) account, though (not mandatory).

¹I assume Linux users know how to install packages anyway.

²Highly recommended, but you are – of course – allowed to use a different editor.

³Mind the instructions in the template repo to add the `makeglossaries` recipe.

⁴If you selected this option during install. T_EX Live users have to download packages manually.