🔗 https://www.coursera.org/learn/introduction-to-front-end-development/supplement/lxW1j/settin…

🕐 3 min read

Setting up your local development environment | Coursera

This reading walks you through the steps to set up an Integrated Development Environment, or IDE, on a Windows and on a Mac (further down below).

The IDE you'll be using in the course is Visual Studio Code, which Microsoft provides for free and comes with a wealth of plugins and extensions to make your life as a developer easier.

You have two options for using Visual Studio Code to complete your course activities:

Option 1: Use Visual Studio Code in-browser with Coursera Labs

Coursera's platform offers an in-browser version of Visual Studio Code which is preconfigured and requires no local setup. You can access the Visual Studio Code environment through the "Lab" items included in this course. Your work and files will be saved and available within this in-browser lab while you have course access.

Option 2: Work on your local device

You can also choose to complete your work on your local machine if you prefer. This will require a few steps of set up in advance.

First, you need to download the IDE from Microsoft's website - https://code.visualstudio.com/download↗ .
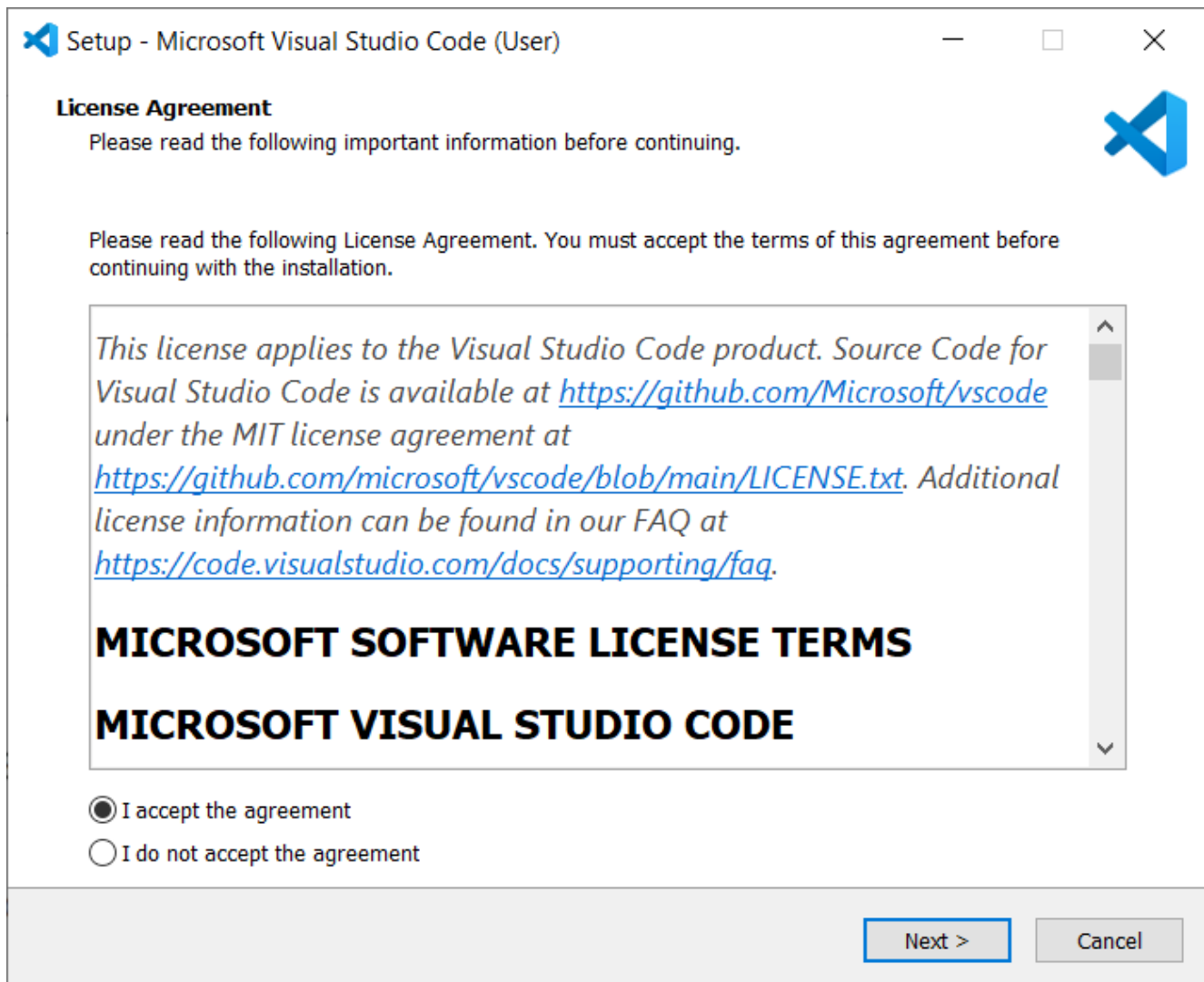
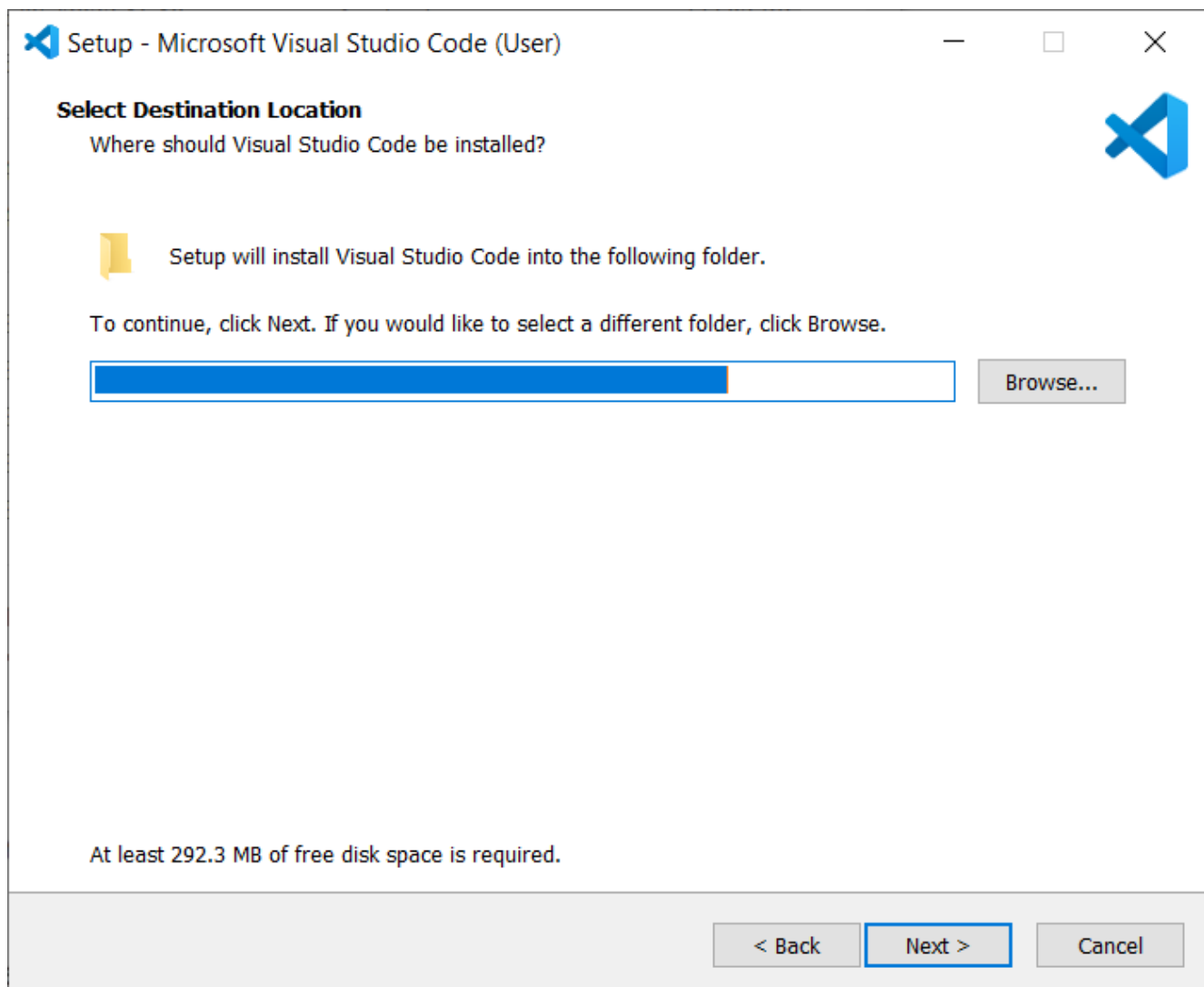Select the download based on your operating system.

Windows

Step 1: Download the Windows installer.

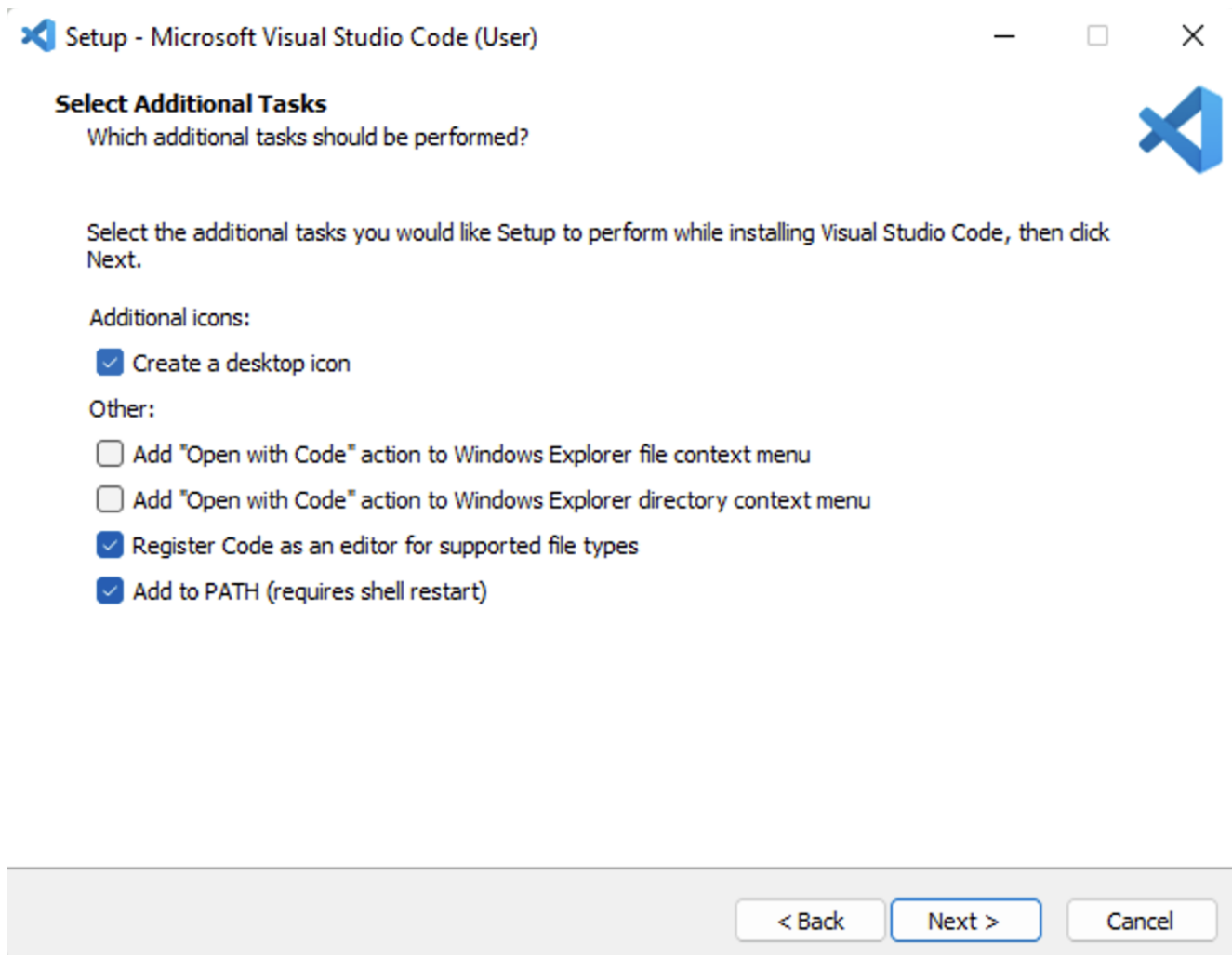**Step 2:** Open the file to install it once the download is complete.

Step 3: Review and accept the license agreement, then click Next.

Step 4: Keep the default value when prompted for the destination location and click next.

Setup - Microsoft Visual Studio Code (User)   —   ☐   ✕

Select Destination Location
Where should Visual Studio Code be installed?

Setup will install Visual Studio Code into the following folder.

To continue, click Next. If you would like to select a different folder, click Browse.

[   ]   Browse...

At least 292.3 MB of free disk space is required.

[< Back]   [Next >]   [Cancel]

Step 5: On the additional tasks view, make sure that **Add to PATH** is selected.

Setup - Microsoft Visual Studio Code (User)   —   □   ✕

Select Additional Tasks
Which additional tasks should be performed?

Select the additional tasks you would like Setup to perform while installing Visual Studio Code, then click Next.

Additional icons:
☑ Create a desktop icon

Other:
☐ Add "Open with Code" action to Windows Explorer file context menu
☐ Add "Open with Code" action to Windows Explorer directory context menu
☑ Register Code as an editor for supported file types
☑ Add to PATH (requires shell restart)

< Back   Next >   Cancel

Step 6: Click next.

Step 7: Click install when the ready to install page appears.
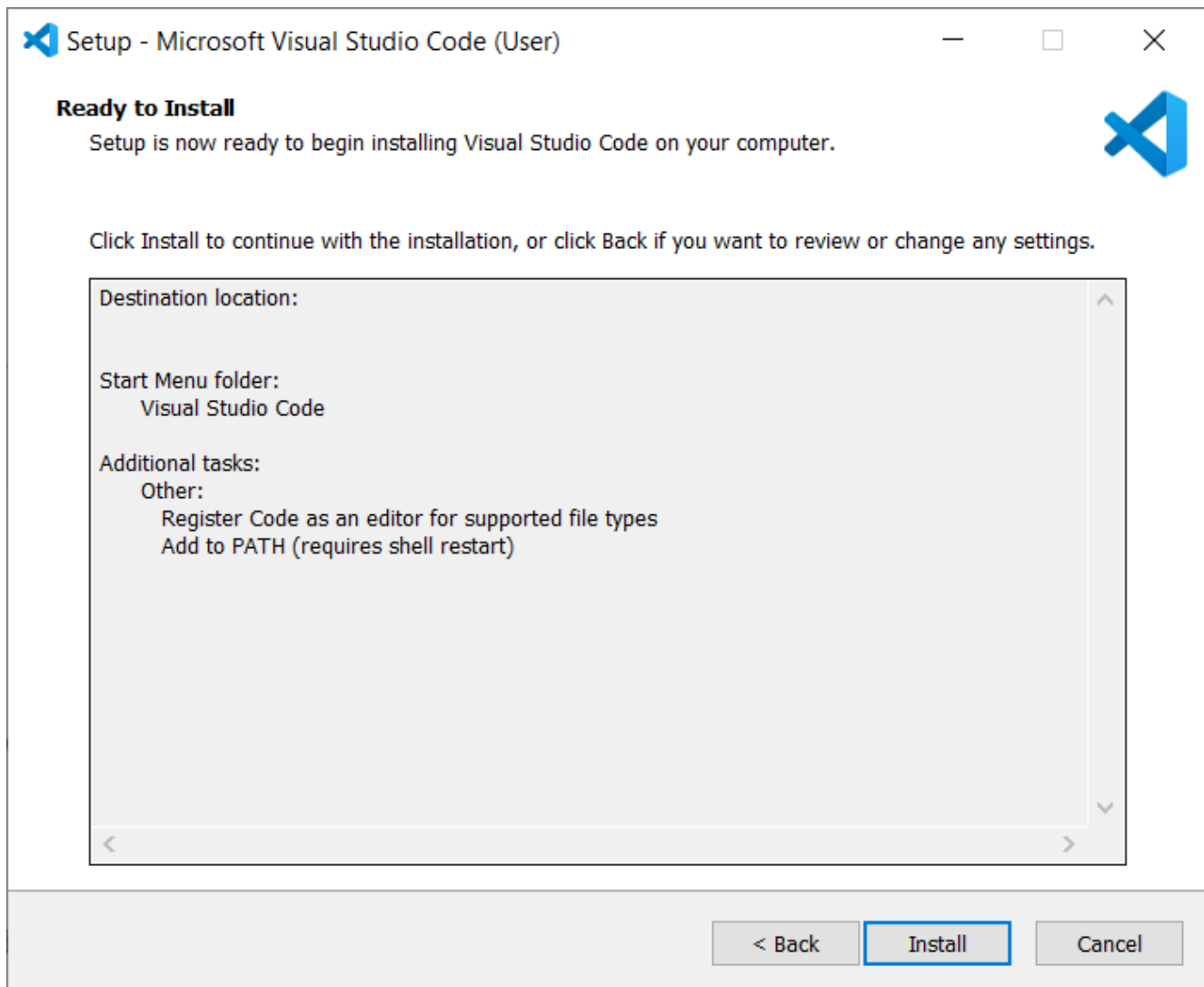
**Step 8:** Click finish once completed, and the application will launch.

Mac

Step 1: Download the application based on the chipset you have. M1 macs use Apple Silicon, and older Macs use Intel. If you are not sure, choose the Universal option.

Step 2: Go to your Downloads folder once the download is complete.

Step 3: Double-click the zip file to extract the contents.

Step 4: Drag and drop the .app file to the application link in Finder below.
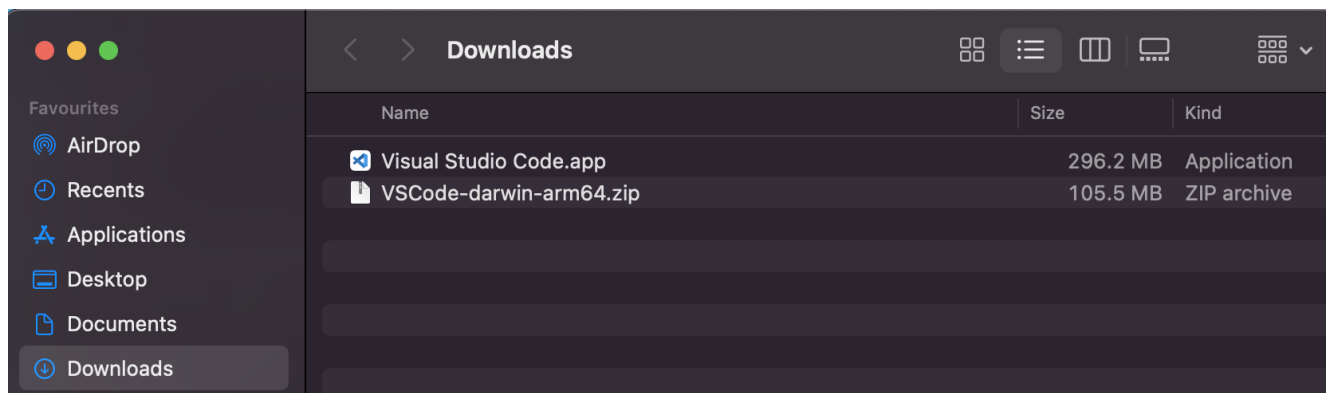
Step 5: Open the app.

Linux

Please refer to the official Linux installation guide⬚ for Visual Studio Code.

Selecting a working directory

Now that you have Visual Studio Code set up create a folder on your device that you'll use to do course exercises.

Open Visual Studio Code, go to *File* and select *Open Folder*. Using the file browser, select the folder you just created.

Congratulations, you're set up now to begin writing some code.

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