

Quick Note: Setting up Cursor AI

Created by ChatGPT
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1. Download and Install Cursor

- Go to <https://cursor.sh/>
- Download the installer for your operating system (Windows, macOS, Linux).
- Run the installer and launch **Cursor**.

2. Sign In

- Open Cursor for the first time.
- Sign in using your GitHub, Google, or email account.
- This creates your workspace and links you to Cursor's AI services.

3. Choose AI Models

- Cursor includes a **model picker** to choose from top AI models.
- Options include OpenAI GPT-4, Anthropic Claude, and others.
- You can switch models per task depending on speed, quality, or reasoning.

4. First Steps in Cursor

- Open or create a project folder in Cursor.
- Use the **AI Chat Panel** to:
 - Ask natural-language questions about your code.
 - Generate new functions or files.
 - Request refactors across the repository.
- Cursor shows all changes as reviewable **diffs** before applying them.

5. Test It Out

- Create a new project folder with a file `hello.py`.
- In the chat, type: *“Write a Python script that prints Hello World.”*
- Next, try: *“Turn this into a simple calculator app with add, subtract, multiply, divide.”*
- Review and accept the diffs that Cursor suggests.

Tips for Students

- Cursor has a free tier (limited usage). Pro plan is around \$20/month for heavier workloads.
- Always review diffs carefully before applying changes.
- Experiment with different models to see trade-offs in reasoning vs. speed.