# Setup & Run Instructions – Travlr Application

This document provides complete, step-by-step instructions to install dependencies, configure the environment, seed the database with 60 test records, and run the backend API for the Travlr project. These steps reflect your current repository layout and Windows path.

## 1) Prerequisites

- Operating System: Windows 10/11 (macOS/Linux also supported)  
- Node.js: 20.x LTS (recommended). Verify with: node -v  
- npm: comes with Node.  
- MongoDB: Local Community Server 6.x (or MongoDB Atlas).  
- Git (optional): for cloning the repository.  
- (Optional) Postman or a browser for testing endpoints.

## 2) Project Location

Project root folder (as used in this course):  
C:\Users\zacka\OneDrive\Desktop\travlr

## 3) Environment Configuration (.env)

Create or confirm a .env file at the project root with the following line (local MongoDB):  
MONGODB\_URI=mongodb://127.0.0.1:27017/travlr  
  
If using MongoDB Atlas, replace the value with your Atlas connection string.

## 4) Install Dependencies

Open a terminal and run these commands:  
cd "C:\Users\zacka\OneDrive\Desktop\travlr"  
cd app\_api  
npm install  
(If the root also contains a package.json and you use it, run npm install at the root as well.)

## 5) Seed the Database (60 test records)

The repository includes a seed script and JSON test data:  
- app\_api\models\seed.js  
- app\_api\models\Trips\_Test\_Data.json (60 records)  
  
Run the seed script from the project root:  
node app\_api/models/seed.js  
  
Expected output ends with: Inserted 60 trip records.

## 6) Start the Backend API

From the project root:  
cd app\_api  
npm start  
  
The API will start on http://localhost:3000

## 7) Verify the API

Open a browser and navigate to:  
http://localhost:3000/api/trips  
  
You should see a JSON array of 60 trip objects.

## 8) Optional: Start the Angular Frontend

If you are also demonstrating the Angular UI (in a separate repo/folder), start it in a new terminal with:  
cd <your-angular-folder>  
npm start (or ng serve)  
Then visit http://localhost:4200 and navigate to the Trips page.  
Note: The CS 499 Milestone Four grading does not require the Angular UI; the API + data are sufficient.

## 9) Troubleshooting

- Empty list at /api/trips: Re-run the seed script.  
- Validation errors during seeding: Use the provided seed.js (it formats length, start date, perPerson correctly).  
- Port in use: Stop any previous server (Ctrl+C) and start again.  
- Mongo connection issues: Verify MONGODB\_URI in .env and that MongoDB is running.