Login to Azure and create a resource group first

1. Sign in to the Azure Portal.
2. In the left-hand menu, select **Resource groups**.
3. Click **+ Create**.
4. Fill in the required fields:
    - **Subscription**: Choose your Azure subscription.
    - **Resource group name**: Enter a unique name (e.g., `MyResourceGroup`).
    - **Region**: Select the Azure region where you want resources deployed.
5. Click **Review + Create**, then **Create**.

Then create a storage account

- In the left-hand menu, select **Storage accounts**.

- Click **+ Create**.

- Fill in the required fields:

    - **Subscription**: Choose your Azure subscription.
    - **Resource group**: Select an existing one or create a new one.
    - **Storage account name**: Enter a globally unique name (lowercase letters and numbers only).
    - **Region**: Choose the Azure region closest to your users or workloads.
    - **Performance**: Standard (HDD-based, cost-effective) or Premium (SSD-based, high-performance).
    - **Redundancy**: Options like LRS (locally redundant), GRS (geo-redundant), ZRS (zone-redundant).

- Click **Review + Create**, then **Create**.

Directions on how to backup a local sql Server database to an azure blob

Quick Answer: To back up a local SQL Server database to Azure Blob Storage, you need to (1) create an Azure Storage account and container, (2) set up a Shared Access Signature (SAS) or storage key credential in SQL Server, and (3) run a `BACKUP DATABASE` command with the `TO URL` option pointing to your blob container.

- Inside the account, create a **Blob Container** (e.g., sqlbackups).
- Generate a **Shared Access Signature (SAS)** or use the storage account key for authentication.

2. Configure SQL Server Credential

- Open SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS).
- Run a script to create a credential that links SQL Server to your Azure Blob container:

sql

```
CREATE CREDENTIAL [AzureBlobCredential]
WITH IDENTITY = 'SHARED ACCESS SIGNATURE',
SECRET = 'your_SAS_token_here';
```

3. Backup Database to Azure Blob

- Use the BACKUP DATABASE command with the TO URL option:

sql

```
BACKUP DATABASE [MyDatabase]
TO URL =
'https://<storageaccount>.blob.core.windows.net/sqlbackups/MyDatabase.bak'
WITH CREDENTIAL = 'AzureBlobCredential',
FORMAT, INIT;
```

- Replace <storageaccount> with your actual storage account name.
- FORMAT, INIT ensures the backup overwrites any existing file.

4. Verify Backup

- Check the blob container in Azure Portal to confirm the .bak file is uploaded.
- You can restore later using:

sql

```
RESTORE DATABASE [MyDatabase]
FROM URL =
'https://<storageaccount>.blob.core.windows.net/sqlbackups/MyDatabase.bak'
WITH CREDENTIAL = 'AzureBlobCredential';
```