**From:** Forestell, Lindsay CITZ:EX <[Lindsay.Forestell@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lindsay.Forestell@gov.bc.ca)>   
**Sent:** January 5, 2023 9:46 AM  
**To:** Hemerling, Stuart CITZ:EX <[Stuart.Hemerling@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Stuart.Hemerling@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Welcome to Introduction to Data Science Using Python!

Hello,

Welcome to the very first offering of this course – **Introduction to Data Science Using Python**! We have some important details to share before the start of the workshop, as well as some pre-workshop homework that we need you to do.

**Course Time & Date:**

January 24 & 25, 2023

9:00 – 4:30pm each day

Coffee breaks and snacks will be provided, but please plan your own lunch!

**Course Location:**

716 Courtney Street, Victoria BC

The front door will be open, and you will be guided to the correct floor (2nd or 5th, TBD after a ~~duel~~ conversation with the R workshop)

**Pre-Workshop (DUE Tuesday January 17th):**

This workshop will be in-person, with guided coding sessions taking us through a variety of different elements of data analysis in Python.

These are the course notes that we will follow throughout the workshop: <https://bcgov.github.io/ds-intro-to-python/>.

The workshop will require the use of a laptop that has Python installed. In order to hit the ground running with this workshop, we are asking that everyone get some basic python tools downloaded and installed before the workshop starts. Installation instructions can be found on [the first page of the workshop course notes](https://bcgov.github.io/ds-intro-to-python/00_introduction_to_python.html#before-starting). Please read through and follow the instructions in section **1.2 BEFORE STARTING**.

To summarize the instruction requirements, by the end of that section you should have the following installed:

* Anaconda or Miniconda
* VS Code
* Python and a small set of useful packages

To ensure we are all on the same page at the beginning of the workshop, please send us a screenshot from VS Code with the following:

* A terminal open (you can open a new one at the top of the page from Terminal -> New Terminal)
* In the terminal, type the following two commands:
  + conda activate ds-env
  + conda env export --from-history
* The screenshot should show the two commands and the output from them, as in the following:

Text

Description automatically generated

**Pre-Workshop Troubleshooting**

If you are having trouble getting Python up and running on your computer, we will be holding virtual drop-in sessions where we can assist in the installation process. The times of the sessions will be as follows:

January 10, 2023, 2:00 to 3:30 [Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MmU2NmJjYjItMzY4NC00ZDdmLTlhMWMtNmE2NTkxOTYzYzI1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%226fdb5200-3d0d-4a8a-b036-d3685e359adc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221d4f18c9-acdf-4913-9304-411378187774%22%7d)

January 12, 2023, 3:00 to 4:30 [Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OGE2ZDgzNjUtMGExNC00ODFlLWE5NTUtOWMxMWQzZGY4NDEz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%226fdb5200-3d0d-4a8a-b036-d3685e359adc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221d4f18c9-acdf-4913-9304-411378187774%22%7d)

January 16, 2023, 1:00 to 2:00 [Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MTlmMDQxMzUtMTcwNy00NjNiLWFkY2ItZDE1NWQyNTVmM2I2%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%226fdb5200-3d0d-4a8a-b036-d3685e359adc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221d4f18c9-acdf-4913-9304-411378187774%22%7d)

If you need further assistance or cannot make it to these sessions, you can reach both of the workshop instructors either via MS Teams message or by email at [lindsay.forestell@gov.bc.ca](mailto:lindsay.forestell@gov.bc.ca) / [stuart.hemerling@gov.bc.ca](mailto:stuart.hemerling@gov.bc.ca).

Thank you for your assistance in getting ready for the course, and we look forward to meeting everyone January 24th!

Cheers,

**Lindsay Forestell, PhD (she/her)**

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Senior Data Scientist | Digital Platforms & Data Division

BC Data Service Division  
Ministry of Citizens' Services

**Stuart Hemerling, MBA (Information Systems)**

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