

Introduction to Statistics for Social Science

SEM 2 - 2026

Practical information

- ▶ Tutor: Dalia Avello-Vega (dalia.avello-vega@ed.ac.uk)
- ▶ Tutorials:
 - ▶ Mondays 11-12
 - ▶ Tuesdays 9 - 10, 10-11

About you:

Name, year/programme

Why this course? Area of interest?

MacOS or Windows?

LABS

- ▶ THERE ARE NO SILLY QUESTIONS!
- ▶ STATA
- ▶ Foundation / useful skills for your future research work
 - ▶ File/data management (for reproducibility)
 - ▶ Reporting
 - ▶ Results
 - ▶ Tables, charts
 - ▶ Citation (references, software, data)

TASK 1: Install Stata

- ▶ If you have not installed Stata
 - ▶ Learn > Course Information > Stata Resources > Downloading Stata, click on first link
 - ▶ (If on campus) Skip to step 4
 - ▶ Click to request your license
 - ▶ STATA Codes Form > Complete form
 - ▶ Check Email and open link
 - ▶ Find the latest version available for your operating system
 - ▶ Install that version
 - ▶ Open Stata **SE**
 - ▶ Use information from the email to complete fields

 [STATA Codes Form](#)



The software and installation guide can be downloaded from:

<https://ueo.sharepoint.com/sites/hss/resources/software-repository/SitePages/Stata-software-download.aspx>

License and Activation Key Stata Software

Licensed software: StataNow/SE 19.5
License type: Unlimited-user Network
License term: Expires 14 September 2026
Serial number: 401909306847
Code: 3q3e purk 6ugu 7mz7 hmsp dt\$7 30ym 9tas
7hsd 4
Authorization: uqmh

TASK 2: Create a folder for the course

- ▶ Go to OneDrive and create a folder for this course. You will use this folder this term to store data and Stata files (.do files)
- ▶ Get the path name to that folder
 - ▶ WINDOWS:
 - ▶ Without opening it, right click over the folder > Copy as path
 - ▶ MAC:
 - ▶ Learn > Course Information > Stata Resources > Setting up Stata resources > Finding path names on a Mac.pdf

TASK 3: Getting dataset to your folder

- ▶ Add the teaching dataset to your folder
- ▶ Learn > Course Information > Dataset for Labs > Download ADRC_S dataset
- ▶ Save it to your course folder (the one you just created!)

TASK 4: Week 1 Lab Materials

- ▶ Learn > Week 1 > Lab
- ▶ Download these files and save them to your course folder:
 - ▶ **Lab 1 assignment.docx**: Text document with the steps you need to complete today
 - ▶ **Lab 1 Stata code.do**: .do file you will use to complete the tasks for today

TASK 5: Open Stata

The screenshot shows the StataNow/SE 19.5 software interface. The top menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Data, Graphics, Statistics, User, Window, and Help. A pink arrow points from the text "menus" to the menu bar. The main window has two tabs: History and Results. The History tab shows a command history with icons for each entry. The Results tab displays the Stata license information and notes. A pink arrow points from the text "History of all commands used on the session" to the History tab. Below the tabs is a Command input field containing the text "You can write commands {instructions} here, but rarely will". To the right of the main window is a Variables panel showing a list of variables with columns for Name and Label. A pink arrow points from the text "Results will appear here" to the Results tab. Another pink arrow points from the text "Here you will see the variables on your dataset" to the Variables panel. At the bottom right is a Properties panel for a selected variable, showing fields for Name, Label, Type, Format, Value label, Notes, Data, Frame, Filename, Label, and Notes.

menus

History of all commands used on the session

Results will appear here

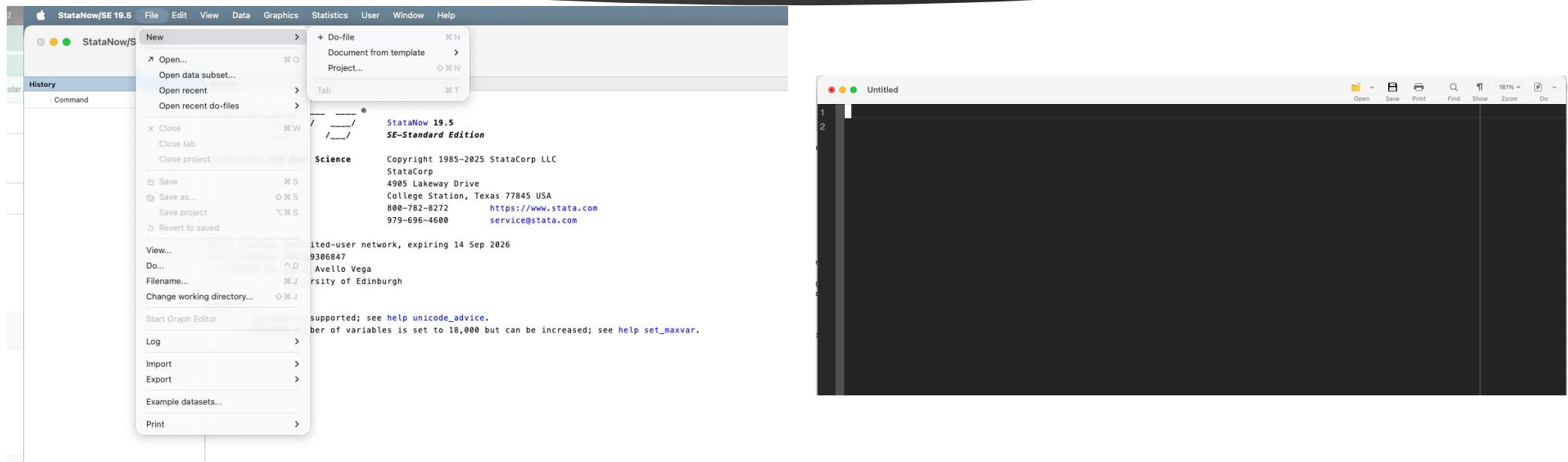
You can write commands {instructions} here, but rarely will

Here you will see the variables on your dataset

Properties

- Variables
 - Name
 - Label
 - Type
 - Format
 - Value label
 - Notes
- Data
 - Frame
 - Filename
 - Label
 - Notes

TASK 6: Create a new .do file to explore



TASK 7: Explore .do file set ups

- ▶ We learned some useful tricks to set up our .do files
 - ▶ Write `STOP` at the beginning of your .do file to avoid it from accidentally running the code
 - ▶ Write descriptive information at the beginning of your .do file so you know what it's for and others can follow along

```
stop
*****
*/
SETTING UP WORKING DIRECTORY IN macOS AND Windows

Prepared by: Dalia Avello-Vega
School of Social and Political Science
University of Edinburgh

Created Dec 2025
Updated: Dec 2025
Stata SE Version 19.5
*/
*****
```

```
*****
/*
Introduction to Statistics for Social Science (2025-2026)
WEEK 1 Tutorial

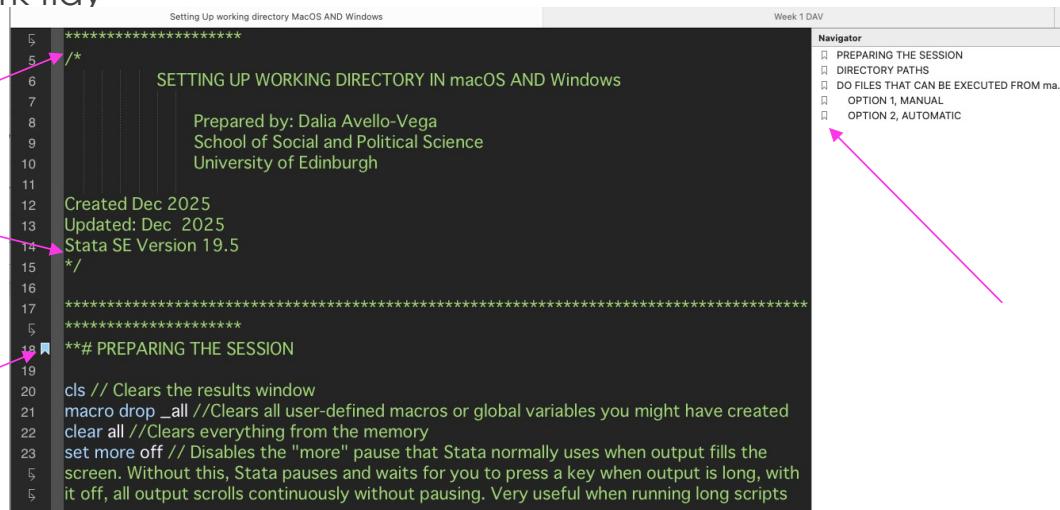
Prepared by: Dalia Avello-Vega
Created: January 12th, 2026
Updated:

Stata version: 19.5
Data:
Instructor's Last Name, First Initial. Second Initial if given. (Year Handout Was Created if known). Teaching Dataset name,
course name [Teaching Dataset]. Learn. URL/Course

For all the labs in this course, we will be using the ADRC_S training dataset. This is a fictitious dataset from the Administrative
Data Research Centre Scotland (ADRC_S) based on the UK General Household Survey. It contains information (variables) on
individuals living in the UK.
*/
*****
```

TASK 7: Explore .do file set ups

- ▶ We can use `/*` to start a comment section (no executable code) and `*/` to close it
- ▶ We can use `**#` to create a section bookmark and `**##` to create a subsection bookmark. These will help us navigate the .do file when it gets longer and keep our work tidy



The screenshot shows a Stata do-file titled "Setting Up working directory MacOS AND Windows". The code includes:

- Line 5: `*****`
- Line 5: `/*` (marked with a pink arrow)
- Line 14: `*/` (marked with a pink arrow)
- Line 19: `**# PREPARING THE SESSION` (marked with a pink arrow)
- Line 19: `cls // Clears the results window`
- Line 20: `macro drop _all //Clears all user-defined macros or global variables you might have created`
- Line 21: `clear all //Clears everything from the memory`
- Line 22: `set more off // Disables the "more" pause that Stata normally uses when output fills the screen. Without this, Stata pauses and waits for you to press a key when output is long, with it off, all output scrolls continuously without pausing. Very useful when running long scripts`

The right side of the screen shows the "Navigator" pane with the following structure:

- PREPARING THE SESSION
- DIRECTORY PATHS
- DO FILES THAT CAN BE EXECUTED FROM ma.
- OPTION 1, MANUAL
- OPTION 2, AUTOMATIC

A pink arrow points from the "PREPARING THE SESSION" item in the Navigator to the `**# PREPARING THE SESSION` line in the do-file.

TASK 7: Explore .do file set ups

- ▶ Other useful commands to start our work session are available here (copy and paste to your own .do file as needed)

Learn > Course Information > Stata Resources > Setting up Stata resources >
Setting Up working directory MacOS AND Windows.do >

- ▶ Preparing the session
- ▶ Directory Path organization
- ▶ Do Files that can be executed from Mac and PC {If you will switch between MacOS and PC (computer labs)}

TASK 8: Prepare your .do file for the lab

- ▶ In your course folder you should have the following files:
 - ▶ **Lab1_assignment.docx** {Instructions for the lab}
 - ▶ **week1_code.do** {basic .do file to get you started}
 - ▶ **ADRC_S.dta** {the dataset you will use}

TASK 8: Prepare your .do file for the lab

1. Open **week1_code.do** and set it up to get started with the work
 - ▶ `cd " "` {This is the command to set up your directory, inset the path you copied from your folder in between the quotation marks". For example:
 - ▶ `cd "/Users/daliaavellovega/Desktop/Into to Stats"`
 - ▶ Tell Stata to open the dataset:
 - ▶ `use ".../ADRC_S.dta"`
2. Open **Lab1 assignment.docx** and begin answering the questions, you can type the responses in the .do file or on the .doc
We will check answers at the start of Lab 2



If in doubt....

- ▶ dalia.avello-vega@ed.ac.uk
- ▶ Otherwise, see you for Lab 2!