



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?

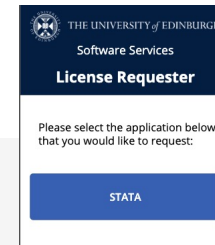
LABS

- ▶ 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://uoesharepoint.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 hmzp 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_\$ 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 19.5 application window. The top menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Data, Graphics, Statistics, User, Window, and Help. A pink arrow points to the 'Statistics' menu, labeled 'menus'. The main window is divided into several panes. The 'History' pane on the left shows a list of commands. The 'Results' pane in the center displays the Stata startup screen, including the Stata logo, version information, and license details. A pink arrow points to this pane, labeled 'Results will appear here'. The 'Variables' pane on the right shows a table with columns for Name and Label. A pink arrow points to this pane, labeled 'Here you will see the variables on your dataset'. The 'Command' pane at the bottom is empty. A pink arrow points to this pane, labeled 'You can write commands {instructions} here, but rarely will'. The 'Properties' pane at the bottom right shows the properties for the selected variable, including Name, Label, Type, Format, Value label, and Note. A pink arrow points to this pane, labeled 'Properties for each variable'. The status bar at the bottom shows the file path: /Users/daliaavellovega/Library/CloudStorage/OneDrive-UniversityofEdinburgh/02 PhD Admin/Teaching/Tutoring/Intro to Stats.

menus

History of all commands used on the session

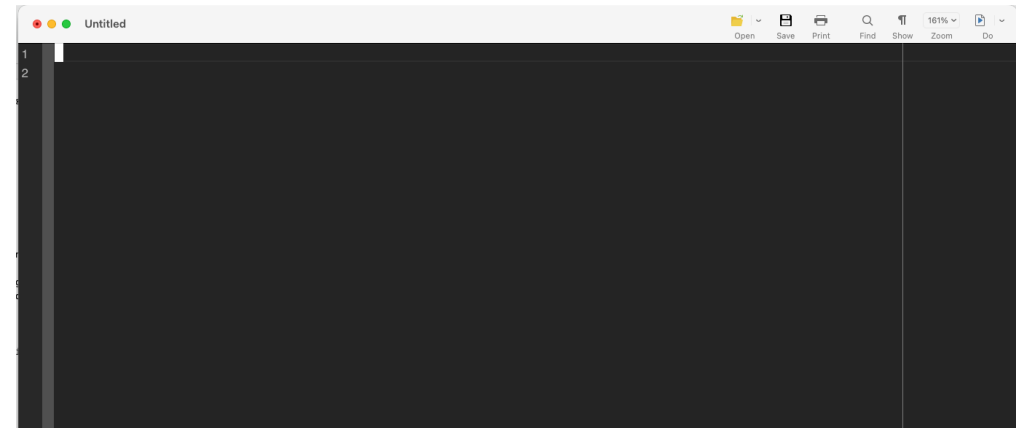
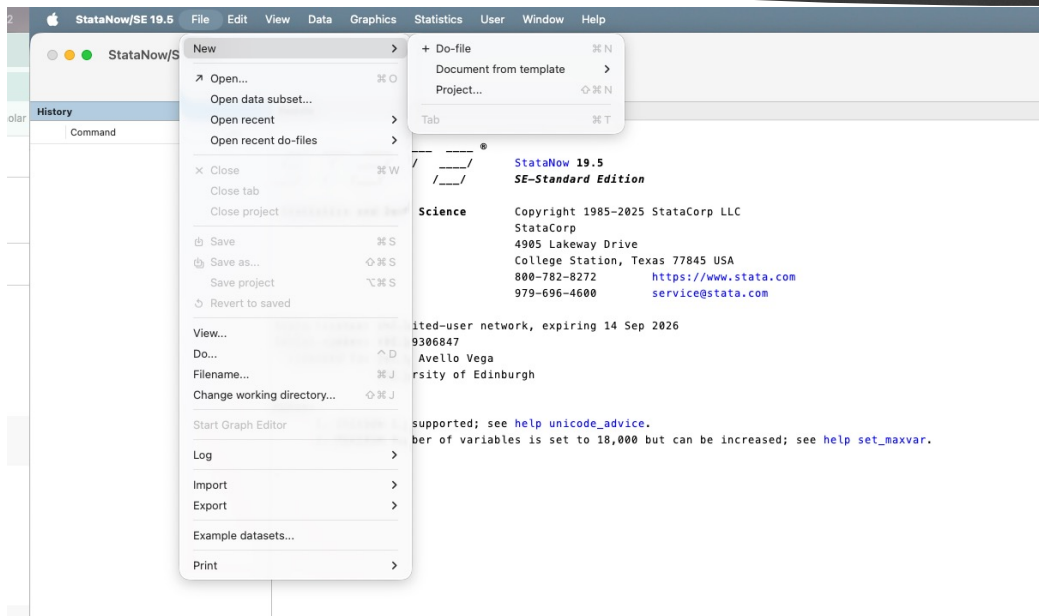
Results will appear here

Here you will see the variables on your dataset

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

Properties for each variable

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

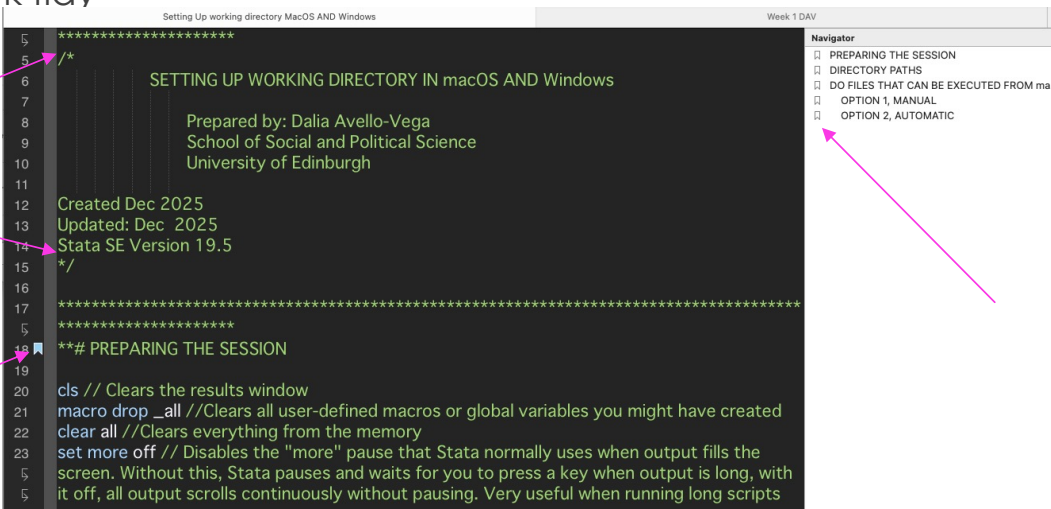
Prepared by: Dalia Avello-Vega
Created: January 12th, 2026
Updated:

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



```
5 *****
6 /*
7
8     SETTING UP WORKING DIRECTORY IN macOS AND Windows
9
10    Prepared by: Dalia Avello-Vega
11    School of Social and Political Science
12    University of Edinburgh
13
14    Created Dec 2025
15    Updated: Dec 2025
16    Stata SE Version 19.5
17 */
18 *****
19 **# PREPARING THE SESSION
20
21 cls // Clears the results window
22 macro drop _all //Clears all user-defined macros or global variables you might have created
23 clear all //Clears everything from the memory
24 set more off // Disables the "more" pause that Stata normally uses when output fills the
25 // screen. Without this, Stata pauses and waits for you to press a key when output is long, with
26 // it off, all output scrolls continuously without pausing. Very useful when running long scripts
```

Setting Up working directory MacOS AND Windows

Week 1 DAY

Navigator

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

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/daliaavelloves/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!